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JPRS L/10407

24 March 1982

Worldwide Report

NARCOTICS AND DANGEROUS DRUGS

(FOUO 14/82)



FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

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HONG KONG

LABORATORY USED ELECTRONIC OVEN TO MANUFACTURE HEROIN

Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 2 Mar 82 p 12

[Article by Tommy Lewis]

[Text]

Narcotics officers scored a major triumph at the weekend when they closed a laboratory in Kwai Chung using an electronic oven to manufacture heroin.

This is the first time Customs Investigation Bureau officers have come across the use of an electronic oven to process heroin.

By doing so the syndicate, which has been under surveillance for some time, was able to refine the heroin base four times faster than the conventional kerosene-stove method.

"This is the first time we have come across an electronic oven being used to process heroin from heroin base," the chief of the CIB, Senior Superintendent K.S. Tong, said yesterday.

The laboratory is believed to have produced No 3 heroin for Colony-wide distribution, he said.

"Chemists, who examined the oven, claimed it could process heroin four times faster than the kerosene stoves normally used to toast the drugs," Sen Supt Tong said.

Three Chiu Chow men, one of whom is believed to be a chemist, were arrested in connection with the laboratory in Kwai Chung on Sunday.

They are still being interrogated by CIB officers, who are also searching for another chemist.

CIB officers raided the

laboratory on the 12th floor of the Wing Kin factory building in Kwai Chung on Sunday night.

The officers, on surveillance duty, saw a man throw away some plastic bags which were later found to contain traces of heroin base.

The man later left the premises and was intercepted by CIB officers when he returned to the factory with another man.

They were taken into the factory and the heroin plant was then discovered.

About 2.5 kg of No 3 heroin worth \$300,000 on the retail market as well as complete sets of apparatus and chemicals usually associated with the manufacture of heroin were found.

"The heroin, stored in nine packets, appeared to have been freshly manufactured and was ready for distribution," according to CIB Superintendent K.L. Mak, who directed the raid on the factory.

Another man believed to have been involved with the laboratory was arrested in a raid on a flat in Shamshui po yesterday — one of five swoops conducted in the New Territories and Kowloon since the laboratory's discovery.

Supt Mak said the syndicate running the plant may be the same one known to the CIB over the past few years.

The discovery of the electronic oven makes CIB officers believe the plant catered for mass production of No 3

heroin for local distribution.

Eight trays of No 3 heroin could be processed at the same time in the oven.

The drugs found in the laboratory appeared to be "whiter" than some of the No 3 heroin found on addicts.

"This could be a result of it being processed by an electronically controlled oven which chemists say could draw out more liquid from the drugs," CIB officers said.

Investigators believe that the syndicate's plant started operating two months ago, soon after the previous tenant had closed its doors for business.

"We believe the seized heroin was the second batch processed in the laboratory," they said.

CIB officers said they also believe that the syndicate may be connected with the seizure of 73 kg of heroin base early last month which was brought to Hongkong in three air compressors on board a Singapore-registered container vessel.

That seizure, converted to 210 kg of No 3 heroin, would fetch \$27 million on the retail market.

Two local men were arrested following the seizure. Both are believed to be members of a Singapore-based international narcotics racket.

Recent seizures — totalling nearly 100 kg — have caused street drug prices to rise by 10 per cent, according to intelligence reports.

CSO: 5320/9122

HONG KONG

LARGE DRUG CACHE FOUND ON FREIGHTER FROM SINGAPORE

Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 19 Feb 82 p 1

[Article by Tommy Lewis]

[Text]

Customs officers have launched a Colony-wide hunt for a couple, believed to be the people behind the importation of a large consignment of narcotics smuggled into Hongkong from Singapore.

The consignment consists of 18 kilos of heroin base and 4.5 kilos of dehydrated opium, estimated to be worth \$7 million on the retail market.

It was seized by customs officers on board the freighter, Zim Singapore, which arrived here from Singapore on Wednesday morning.

Immediately after the seizure of the heroin base was made from under tons of water and human waste from a tank of the vessel, customs officers raided two premises in Western district, the homes of the wanted man and woman.

Customs officers believe the narcotics may be from the same supplier of the \$27 million consignment which was smuggled here on board the Singaporean registered container ship, World Lion, two weeks ago.

Senior customs officers believe that a Singapore-based drug syndicate is using the island republic as a "transit point" in the smuggling of narcotics to Hongkong from the Golden Triangle.

Details of the two seizures have been sent to the Singapore authorities and informed sources say that a

senior customs officer is likely to leave for Singapore shortly to make further inquiries.

The drugs find was made during a routine search of the Zim Singapore on its arrival from Israel via Singapore.

A team of CIB officers headed by Senior Superintendent K.S. Tong, later found that a Chiu Chow cook had already gone ashore.

A team of officers went to his home and arrested him. They took him back to the vessel for further inquiries.

The cook is believed to have unpacked packets of heroin base and flushed them down a toilet when the customs officers boarded the vessel.

About five tons of water and human waste was later pumped out of the tank and customs officers recovered heroin base.

Two large plastic bags were found on a deck close to the cook's quarters — one contained 4.5 kilos of dehydrated opium and the other contained wrappings with traces of heroin base.

Customs officers also seized a kilo of hashish on board a Greek freighter during a search following its arrival from the Middle East yesterday.

No one was arrested in connection with the seizure, estimated to be worth \$200,000 on the local retail market.

CSO: 5320/9122

HONG KONG

COURTS TO IMPOSE STIFFER PENALTIES ON DRUG TRAFFICKERS

Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 27 Feb 82 p 6

[Text]

Courts will soon be able to impose greater penalties on drug traffickers.

New legislation is being prepared in a bid to reverse an upward trend last year — for the first time in eight years — in drug-related activities.

Another Bill, which will be introduced in the Legislative Council, will give police officers legal protection to conduct body searches.

The Commissioner for Narcotics, Mr Peter Lee, said yesterday that the new law will enable the courts to impose heavy penalties on ship-owners whose vessels were found to be repeatedly involved in the smuggling of heroin.

The other Bill will extend to police officers the same powers enjoyed by customs officials to authorise a physical search on suspected traffickers.

Custom officers are protected from being accused of violating human rights by people who had undergone body searches and who were found innocent.

Mr Lee said he did not anticipate opposition from the public because a drug offence is in itself "a violation of human rights."

Mr Lee disclosed drug statistics indicated a worsening situation last year.

From 1974 onwards every category of drug addicts showed a steady decline, he said.

But he attributed the rise to the bumper 600-tonne opium harvest in the Golden

Triangle last year. The same amount is expected this year.

"This has resulted in a 70 per cent increase in prosecutions for minor drug offences and a doubling of the population of addicts under 21 in the Drug Addiction Treatment Centre.

"The number of addicts under 21 admitted to Shek Kwu Chau has also tripled," Mr Lee said.

The flood of cheap drugs has also doubled the number of newly reported addicts in the 15 to 19 age group and a 37 per cent rise among 21 to 24 year olds.

In 1980, there were 283 new addicts aged between 15-19. Last year it rose to 571 and in the 20-24 age bracket, 747 cases were reported as opposed to 546.

"I am very concerned," Mr Lee said, adding that the number of drug-related corruption cases has also increased over the past two years.

However, Mr Lee said the percentage of addict-prisoners being admitted to Stanley Prison had continued to decline from 23 per cent in 1980 to 24 per cent last year.

Another encouraging sign was that attendances at methadone clinics remained high, he said.

Mr Lee said he foresaw a furious battle between drug syndicates and law enforcement agents in the months ahead as the Asian market is virtually the only remaining one for opium produced in the Golden Triangle on the Thai-

Burmese border.

Mr Lee said while the notorious area was suffering from a drought, the European and North American markets were supplied by the Golden Crescent which borders Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Mr Lee said its annual production was a stunning 1,200 tonnes.

This means that Golden Triangle traffickers are being forced to market the stuff aggressively in Southeast Asia, Hongkong and Australia, Mr Lee said.

"They are attempting to flood the area this year and they will not stop at anything," the veteran narcotics fighter said.

Mr Lee said drug syndicates will use any method to smuggle the stuff in.

To counter this, Mr Lee said narcotics authorities are re-examining all of Hongkong's drug treatment programmes and are strengthening the law enforcement arms.

Mr Lee said methadone clinics will be increased from the existing 20 to 25 by April and the Action Committee Against Narcotics will step up its publicity offensive to persuade youngsters away from drugs. Treatment and rehabilitation programmes will also be enhanced.

Meanwhile, the ACNA is to push ahead with tests on the effectiveness of a new form of replacement drug, buprenorphine, for methadone.

CSO: 5320/9122

HONG KONG

TWO CREWMEN JAILED FOR SMUGGLING OPIUM FROM SINGAPORE

Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 27 Feb 82 p 6

[Text]

Two members of the crew of a Panamanian registered ship yesterday received jail sentences for conspiracy to smuggle opium worth \$10 million into Hongkong.

Or Chun-fai (42), chief steward of the Lu Chiang, was sentenced to seven years' imprisonment and fined \$30,000 or another six months in lieu.

Lam Tung-kong, fifth engineer, was jailed for five years.

Another man, Chan Kwong (28), was sent to prison for six years, also on the conspiracy charge.

Chan and Or were convicted after a trial.

Lam pleaded guilty.

Passing sentence in the High Court, Mr Justice Addison said that although opium was treated as less serious than hard drugs, the importation of this vast quantity into Hongkong was a very serious matter.

The master of the ship, Hui Man-wai (39), was acquitted of the charge by the jury on Tuesday after his counsel, Mr John Nicholas, had made a no case to answer submission.

Mr Peter Nguyen appeared for Lee Kai-ming, who was acquitted by the jury on Thursday. He also represented Or.

Mr Albert Sanguinetti appeared for Chan Kwong, and Mr Mohan Bharwaney for Lam.

Senior Crown counsel Colin White prosecuted.

During the trial the court was told that 82.67 kilos of prepared opium were brought into Hongkong in a spare piston in the engine room of the Lu Chiang.

It was loaded in Singapore and discovered by customs officers in Hongkong as two men attempted to take it to shore in a motorboat.

CSO: 5320/9122

HONG KONG

COLONY SEEN AS TRANSIT POINT FOR NO 4 HEROIN

Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 17 Feb 82 p 10

[Article by Paul Mosley]

[Text]

Discoveries in the past year of No 4 heroin, in and bound for Hongkong, could see the Colony once again being used as a main transit point to other countries in the world.

This was likely because No 4 would not be primarily for local use, said Senior Superintendent K. S. Tong, who heads the Customs Investigation Bureau.

Speaking at a Lions Club lunch meeting, he said the re-emergence of large quantities of No 4 heroin was not popular with local addicts as it was 90 per cent pure, much more expensive (than No 3 heroin) and was generally used for injecting not inhaling which is the usual local method.

He said Hongkong was being used as a transit point because the quantity of No 4 was too great for local consumption.

Depending on its availability and price, Hongkong could possibly turn into an export centre once again, he said.

However, he said, vigilance at the airport had been stepped up.

Other main problems facing the bureau include containing the routes from the Golden Triangle and China.

And with another bumper harvest in the Golden Triangle, customs officials are having to contend with traffickers trying more and varied routes to smuggle hard drugs into the Colony, he said.

Supt Tong, offering a broad outline on Hongkong's drug situation, said:

"If we cannot overcome this Golden Triangle and China route we are likely to have more problems because of the volume of traffic from these two places.

"We also have to be extremely tight at the land border (with China), but we have not yet discovered any cases coming in directly from China," although he said that with so many vehicles crossing every day, there was a great deal of concern over this area.

Regarding the main entry points for drug traffickers, Mr Tong said Kai Tak airport was under "fairly good control," as all pas-

sengers and cargo have to pass through customs.

But, he said, ocean-going vessels and fishing junks posed a more difficult problem, although details of approximate quantities being smuggled into Hongkong were not known.

Entry via other routes such as Peking and Japan were only isolated incidents, he said, and added that it was impossible to search or give equal attention to everyone entering Hongkong.

For this reason he suggested that couriers would feel less conspicuous if they entered Hongkong from non-established drug routes such as Japan and Taiwan.

And he dispelled the possibility of another "French Connection," even though the only real European drug connection from Asia is Paris.

His reason for dismissing the Paris link is that it simply provides a stop-over for consignments of drugs in transit to Holland.

Concerning the fall in prices because of the bumper harvest, he said that with more drugs becoming available, smaller dealers and distributors could now afford to set up shop.

And this has led to prices in the Golden Triangle falling by 78 per cent for raw opium and up to 54 per cent in Hongkong.

With the fall in wholesale value, street prices in Hongkong have subsequently dropped.

To combat a flooding of the Hongkong market, more customs officers are being posted to keep watch on the harbour and airport.

He said the recent armed conflict on the Thailand side of the Golden Triangle with opium warlord, Khun Sa, was unlikely to affect the Hongkong market as it only accounts for 10 per cent of the total production in the area.

However, Mr Tong explained that as much of the opium in this area is exported through Chiang Mai, "the route from the Golden Triangle to China will be disrupted."

CSO: 5320/9122

HONG KONG

HEROIN PACKETS TAKEN FROM AMERICAN MAN'S STOMACH

Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 18 Feb 82 p 7

[Text]

Forty-three packets of pure heroin were taken from the stomach of an American shipyard worker at Queen Elizabeth Hospital early on Sunday, police said yesterday.

One of the packets taken from Edwin White (46), from San Diego, California, had ruptured.

Drug fighters said last night he was lucky to be still alive and if the operation had not been performed in time, other packets might have broken and he could have died of an overdose.

Last year, a drug courier died of an overdose when a condom concealed in his rectum burst shortly after he returned from Bangkok.

Last night White was in fair condition in the hospital's custodial ward.

Police said the total seizure was 200 grams.

They said No 4 heroin, almost 100 per cent in purity, is usually used for injection by addicts.

Police said White is expected to be charged today with possessing dangerous drugs for unlawful trafficking.

Although White is still in hospital, the charge papers will be taken before a magistrate at South Kowloon Court to have him remanded in hospital.

White arrived from Nepal via New Delhi last Thursday on his way to Los Angeles.

During the flight here, he told flight staff he was unwell.

When the jet landed, White was taken to Queen Elizabeth Hospital for a check up.

Three small packets of heroin No 4 fell on the ground when nurses took off his socks.

Doctors operated after his condition deteriorated.

CSO: 5320/9122

HONG KONG

BRIEFS

MORPHINE TRAFFICKING CHARGE--Committal proceedings against two men charged with conspiracy to traffic in a dangerous drug was yesterday fixed for May 14 by Mr M.W. Fung at Western Court. Chan Tin-chööt (42) and Cheng Sai-nun (38) are alleged to have between January 23 and February 3 conspired together and with others unknown to traffic in approximately 72.73 kilos of esters of morphine. They were remanded in jail custody. [Text] [Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 19 Feb 82 p 12]

THAI-BASED DRUG SYNDICATE--Customs Investigation Bureau officers last night released after questioning two men--a Thai businessman and a local resident. They were questioned in connection with a Thai-based drug syndicate which is sending drugs to Hongkong by couriers. The pair, released on \$2,000 police bail each, were arrested early yesterday morning in the lobby of a Yaumati hotel. Their detention followed the arrest on Wednesday of two Thai nationals--one at Kai Tak airport and the other in the same Yaumati hotel. The two Thais arrested on Wednesday were taken to Queen Elizabeth Hospital where eight condoms of heroin base were found in their rectums. The heroin base weighed 570 grams and if converted to No 3 heroin could fetch a retail price of \$210,000. [Excerpt] [Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 26 Feb 82 p 10]

DRUG FIGHT REVERSAL--Last year's sudden influx of drugs to Hongkong resulted in a sharp reversal of the success of the fight against drug abuse, said the Commissioner for Narcotics, Mr Peter Lee yesterday. The influx led to the halving of the price of heroin which was "now freely available on the streets of this territory." Mr Lee was addressing the Shamshuipo anti-narcotics seminar organised by the Shamshuipo district anti-narcotics committee. He said: "The number of those charged with minor drug offences has risen by 37 percent." There had been a 19 percent increase in the number of people first reported to the Central Registry of Drug Abuse last year over the previous year's figures. Mr Lee said: "The number of people aged between 15 and 19 years old who were first reported to the Central Registry last year was 571 which was more than double those reported in the previous year." He called for a redoubling of all efforts and mobilisation of all resources to warn the community, especially the young, of the dangers of drug addiction. He reminded his audience that a drug education liaison centre was run by the Narcotics Division to help schools organise talks and discussions on the dangers of drugs. About 100 school administrators attended yesterday's seminar. [Text] [Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 28 Feb 82 p 8]

DRUG ADDICTION FILM--A tough new film about drug addiction that has taken Europe by storm is to be screened uncensored in Hongkong. Based on a true story, Christiane F is a starkly-realistic production about a 13-year-old German girl who becomes a heroin addict. The film is powerful anti-drug propaganda aimed at unveiling the mysteries surrounding heroin addiction. The Government's chief film censor, Mr Pierre Lebrun, thought Christiane F was a good film to illustrate the horror of drugs. A proportion of royalties from Christiane F will be given for the treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts. Scenes from the film will be shown tonight on the Radio Television Hongkong programme Here and Now which will be focusing on the problem of drugs. [Excerpts] [Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 26 Feb 82 p 17]

HEROIN DISTRIBUTING CENTER--Hong Kong, 1 Feb--Anti-narcotics detectives believe they have smashed a heroin distribution centre after seizing 1.2 kilogrammes of suspected heroin with a street value of 250,000 dollars (45,000 US), it was reported here today. A 27-year-old man, who arrived here from Guangzhou, China, three years ago, was arrested. Police said he would be charged with possession of dangerous drugs for illegal trafficking. The suspected heroin was seized in a downtown flat after a week-long investigation into a retailing and distribution centre in Hong Kong's red light district of Wanchai.--NAB/AFP [Text] [Rangoon THE WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY in English 3 Feb 82 p 6]

OPIUM SEIZURE--A burglary investigation has helped police seize about 27 kilograms of suspected prepared opium. The suspect drugs were discovered yesterday morning in a Kowloon City flat, next to one which was reportedly ransacked in the burglary. A woman called the police on Thursday night to say her home had been burgled while she was out and about \$4,500 in cash and valuables was missing. Police found a door of a flat on the same floor had also been tampered with. As no one was in the flat, policemen were posted to wait for the occupier to return. Then at 9.30 am yesterday, a party of police officers entered the flat and found 15 packets of suspected prepared opium inside a refrigerator. They are still looking for the occupant of the flat. [Text] [Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 20 Feb 82 p 6]

CSO: 5320/9120

MALAYSIA

SARAWAK POLICE IN ANTINARCOTICS OPERATION

Kuala Belait BORNEO BULLETIN in English 23 Jan 82 p 32

[Text]

KUCHING. — The big police operation against drug addicts and pushers in Sarawak is continuing to pull in suspects, with the total number detained approaching 300 by Wednesday of this week.

Operation Berkas is a nation-wide attack on what has been described as Malaysia's Enemy Number One — the use of addictive drugs.

The operation was launched in Sarawak on a massive scale on January

10, with 130 suspects netted in the space of a few early morning hours as more than 400 police officers raided the haunts and homes of known addicts.

Raids have continued on a daily basis since, and the operation is to go on "indefinitely," according to Commissioner of Police Datuk Seri Yuen Yuet Leng.

Of the 293 suspects detained by Tuesday

night, 144 had been released after urine tests failed to turn up traces of drugs. But 19 who had positive urine tests were sent to drug rehabilitation centres.

Another 103 detainees were still in custody at detection centres or hospitals awaiting the results of their urine tests.

The remainder of the suspects were being held in central police stations in the main towns and included 17 people allegedly involved in illegal gang activities.

First Division police chief, Superintendent Vincent Khoo, described one goal of Operation Berkas as being to cut off drug supplies and so eventually bring down the number of addicts (about 1,000 have been identified in the state, but the true number may be much higher).

It is difficult to trace the sources of drugs, however, because addicts

are very reluctant to reveal their contacts, he noted.

Among the suspects rounded up were 17 suspected traffickers, but none were caught in possession of any drugs.

The operation has, in fact, uncovered only a negligible amount of drugs.

By Tuesday night police had seized 11 grammes of dried opium and one litre of liquid opium, as well as 29 tablets of drugs known as Rochee-2 and DAF-118.

Drug peddlers use a variety of means to smuggle their deadly goods into the state and police hope to use leads gleaned from detainees to catch them in the act.

"We are keeping a close watch on the air and sea routes," Mr Khoo said.

Police also believe that Operation Berkas can help cut down on the amount of petty crime, because many addicts are

known to turn to illegal means to support their expensive habit.

The crime scene throughout Sarawak has, indeed, been quiet since the police crack-down on addicts began. Reports of thefts and other crimes have fallen by half, Datuk Seri Yuen said on Tuesday.

As well, police hope they have struck a blow at gang activity with the arrest of 17 suspected gang members who had been on the wanted list.

Officers are now gathering evidence so the suspects can be prosecuted in court.

Police figures show that of the 293 arrests made during Operation Berkas, 164 were in Kuching, 62 in Miri, 42 in Sibul, 19 in Sarikei and six in Limbang.

The detainees included 10 students, 14 government servants, 25 businessmen, 139 manual workers, and 93 unemployed people.

CSO: 5300/8319

MALAYSIA

WELFARE MINISTRY COMPLETING STUDY ON DRUG PROBLEMS

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 29 Jan 82 p 1

[Text]

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. -- Drug addicts might be given military training under a rehabilitation programme, Welfare Minister Datin Paduka Hajjah Aishah Ghani said today.

She said her Ministry was currently studying the desirability of such a move which was aimed at enforcing discipline among the addicts.

She also said her Ministry was looking into the feasibility of turning an island into a giant drug rehabilitation centre.

The Minister was speaking to reporters after receiving a cheque for \$2,000 from Puan Koeswardani Kassim, wife of the Malaysian Ambassador to Belgium.

The money is for the Selangor Retarded Children's Association.

Datin Paduka Aishah said her Ministry was preparing a blueprint on tackling the problems posed by drug addicts.

The study, covering all aspects of the drug menace, is expected to be completed by March.

She said her Ministry would be solely responsible for the problem.

A series of discussions and meetings will be held with the various Ministries, including the Ministries of Health, Home, Education and Labour.

Psychiatrists and military personnel will also participate in the discussions and meetings on prevention, cure and after-care of the addicts.

The Minister said there were about 590 addicts in four rehabilitation centres at Kuala Kubu Baru, Besut, Bukit Mertajam and Tampol.

She said her Ministry planned to take over the detection and identi-

fication centres from the Health Ministry when sufficient rehabilitation centres have been established.

"We are thinking of putting up our own centres in the big cities and in every police station," she said.

"As it is, the hospitals have enough of a problem on their hands."

The legal aspect will also be reviewed and some changes might be made to the Dangerous Drug Act, 1952, relating to the detention of drug addicts.

Research would be undertaken on reasons for the predominance of Malays addicts.

For instance, said Datin Paduka Aishah, all the addicts at the Besut rehabilitation centre were Malays while more than half the addicts in the Kuala Kubu Baru centre were also Malays.

Among the proposals under study, she added, were the classification of addicts in the existing rehabilitation centres according to their degree of addiction.

CSO: 5300/8319

MALAYSIA

ASEAN LEGISLATORS STUDY DRUG CONTROL MEASURES

Kuala Lumpur BUSINESS TIMES in English 4 Feb 82 p 2

[Text]

A MOVE is under way for Asean member countries to introduce legislation to forfeit the assets of persons involved in dadah activities.

A recommendation to this effect is being studied by the Socio-Economic and Cultural Matters Committee for adoption by the 4th Asean Inter-Parliamentary Organisation (AIPO) general assembly being held in Kuala Lumpur.

According to a working paper by the AIPO study group on a common legislative programme on narcotics, drug abuse and rehabilitation, Asean members were also encouraged to initiate legislation which would provide for preventive detention of dadah traffickers, manufacturers and financiers.

The paper also recom-

ended that those involved in dadah trafficking and related illicit drug activities be denied travel documents.

Another important recommendation by the study group was the introduction of a programme of compulsory treatment and rehabilitation for dadah-dependent persons.

Malaysia is represented by the MP for Kepong, Dr Tan Tiong Hong, and the MP for Kuala Lumpur Bandar, Mr Lee Lam Thye, in the eight-member study group.

The report also stressed the importance of research and training for effective implementation of anti-dadah measures.

For this purpose, the group endorsed the recommendation of the sixth

Asean drug experts meeting which called for Asean anti-dadah projects to utilise regional, international and third countries' aid.

Action toward this end should be initiated by the respective training centres, upon request from member countries.

Each Asean country should also identify clearly the objectives of the training programmes requested.

Projects of this nature should serve the needs of all Asean countries, the paper said.

The study group supported the establishment of the Asean Narcotics Desk and the appointment of an Asean narcotics officer at the Asean Secretariat and recommended that these steps be implemented immediately. — Bernama

CSO: 5300/8319

MALAYSIA

INCREASE IN NUMBER OF MALAY DRUG ABUSERS

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 30 Jan 82 pp 1, 2

[Text]

KLANG, Fri. — The number of Malays involved in drug addiction has been increasing since 1979 — going up between one and six per cent in the last three years.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Musa Hitam said this today after being briefed by police officials at the Selangor Police Contingent Headquarters here.

In 1979, Malays formed 39.5 per cent of drug abusers; in 1980 they made up 45.7 per cent and last year they formed 46.1 per cent.

The number of Chinese drug abusers, however, he said has decreased in the same period.

In 1979, they made 39 per cent, going down to 36 per cent in 1980 and 33.6 per cent last

year.

Datuk Musa said the number of Indians involved in drug taking has been "erratic" — from 21 per cent in 1979 to 17.3 per cent in 1980 and up again to 19.1 per cent in 1981.

One reason for the large involvement of Malays in drugs was the rural-urban migration.

Malays come to town hoping to find riches, but upon being disillusioned, they turned to drugs to relieve pressure, he said.

While spiritual development among them must be emphasised, the police too must play its role to overcome the problems.

Datuk Musa said an anti-drug unit led by a police superintendent had been set up in all States since last year.

The unit is also staffed with two assistant superintendents, five inspectors, one sergeant, five corporals and six constables.

CSO: 5300/8319

NEW ZEALAND

AUSTRALIAN DRUG PROBE TO TAKE EVIDENCE IN NEW ZEALAND

Wellington THE EVENING POST in English 12 Feb 82 p 5

[Text]

The Australian Royal Commission of Inquiry into Drug Trafficking is expected in New Zealand around the middle of the year.

The commission, which was largely established to investigate the operations of the "Mr Asia" syndicate, will have the power to subpoena witnesses in New Zealand and will eventually report to the New Zealand Government as well as the Australian.

At a press conference yesterday, after a meeting between the Attorney-General, Mr McLay, and his Australian federal counterpart, Senator Peter Durack, journalists were told that only technical difficulties stood in the way of the unprecedented establishment of the Australian commission as a full royal commission here.

Difficulties

The difficulties concern drafting the New Zealand terms of reference for the commission and arise from the High Court judgment on the Thomas Commission, and the Court of Appeal judgments in December on

the Mahon Commission into the Mt Erebus disaster.

There were no political difficulties, Senator Durack said. "I don't think there's any disagreement on the desirability of doing this."

The commission is expected to sit here for two or three weeks.

"The Australian commission wants to be able to obtain evidence from people in New Zealand whom it thinks will be able to help them.

"If they're limited to obtaining evidence from Australia they won't be able to give a full picture in their report," Senator Durack said.

Main object

Mr McLay said the main object of appointing the commission under New Zealand law as well, was to give it the power to subpoena witnesses.

"Because drug dealing is essentially an international trade it requires international co-operation to deal with the problem. Therefore we're enabling the Australian commission to make in New Zealand such inquiries as are necessary to enable it to complete its Australian investigations," he said.

The witnesses in which

the commission is primarily interested in New Zealand are expected to include people sought by the defence during the Lancaster Castle trial of "Mr Asia" syndicate

boss Alexander Sinclair (formerly Terry Clark) in Britain last year.

Immunity

Sinclair's defence lawyers sought immunity from prosecution in New Zealand and Australia for several individuals in an attempt to encourage them to give evidence at Lancaster. The immunity was effectively refused by Mr McLay and Senator Durack and no defence witnesses travelled from Australia or New Zealand for the six-month trial.

Sinclair, now serving a minimum 20-year sentence in the United Kingdom for the murder there of his former associate, Aucklanders Marty Johnstone, is also formally wanted in Melbourne on a warrant alleging complicity in the murder of two other New Zealand members of the syndicate, Douglas and Isobel Wilson.

The commission is looking into the Wilsons' murder as well as other murders and crimes linked to the syndicate.

CSO: 5320/9123

NEW ZEALAND

PEOPLE CULTIVATING CANNABIS IN EVER-INCREASING NUMBERS

Camouflaged Plots

Christchurch THE PRESS in English 29 Jan 82 p 13

[Article by John Durning]

[Text]

Cultivating cannabis for the purposes of supplying others carries a maximum penalty of seven years in prison, yet people continue to grow marijuana in New Zealand, and in ever-increasing numbers.

Last year, more than 7000 plants were seized by the police in Canterbury and the West Coast, whereas this season, between September 9 and January 20, 7667 plants have been recovered in 122 seizures, leading to 94 arrests.

"The number of people growing cannabis is definitely increasing and we are really only scratching the surface," said the head of the Christchurch drug squad (Detective Senior Sergeant M. J. Muddiman).

"The amount of cannabis we seize mushrooms each year and this does not take into account plants that have been discovered and destroyed by farmers, picnickers, trampers and the like.

"We receive excellent tips from the public, but people cultivating the plants go to great lengths to camouflage their plots," he said.

The growing season in Canterbury usually starts in September with the planting of seeds in small pots. These are normally germinated inside or in a glasshouse and are not planted out until December when they are well established.

Plants germinated inside are usually hidden in the roof, a spare room or mixed in with other pot plants to avoid detection, Mr Muddiman said. They are normally grown under artificial light.

Earlier this season the drug squad seized nearly 700 plants hidden in a roof that were ready to be planted out.

Marijuana likes warm moist weather with plenty of sunlight. Riverbeds are favoured by growers as locations to plant their crop because the soil is often so moist that the plants do not need to be watered. Plots established in small clearings in the bush often require watering about once a week.

"When cannabis is planted out it requires care and attention. It is usual to find peat pot holders, manure, hose pipe, wire netting and in some cases water pumps in each plot.

"The cultivator generally takes his equipment on to the site and leaves it there because of the difficulties of carrying it back and forth.

"Clearings made in the bush vary in size from pocket handkerchief plots to others that can be 10 metres by 10 metres. These plots are usually well protected by wire mesh to stop animals such as opossums, sheep, cattle and deer eating the plants.

"Often the clearings are in such remote places that they can be reached only by four-wheel drive vehicles or jet boats. Growers go to a lot of trouble to avoid detection and the plots are so well concealed that a casual observer on foot is not able to find an opening without considerable investigation," Mr Muddiman said.

Cannabis is quick growing and already this summer the drug squad has seized plants that are 2 metres tall and by the end of the season plants as big as 4 metres tall could be found.

"Once the plants are fully established and well grown they are difficult to destroy and in many cases axes and chain saws have been used to chop the mature plants down," he said.

Plants seized are disposed of in liaison with the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research and the Health Department. Statistical records of all plants are kept.

"There are two types of people who grow cannabis. Those who grow it for their own supply and those who supply others. It is difficult to believe that people who grow more than two or three plants are not doing it for the purpose of supply.

"Most large growers have several plots dotted about the countryside rather than

one large plantation, and this makes detection difficult," Mr Muddiman said.

Cannabis leaves can be harvested anytime from now until the middle of April and the first frosts. Once picked, the leaves are dried before selling.

Mr Muddiman said the growers generally make their own "deals" ranging from a few grams to half a kilogram. Recent arrests have involved seizures of 500 gram lots with a market value of \$750 each.

Smaller amounts are usually sold in tin foil "bullets" which are worth between \$10 and \$15 and will make six cigarettes on average.

"Cannabis seems to be available most of the time, and there is plenty around at present.

"Over the last five years there has been a substantial increase in cannabis cultivation in this country. In fact, it seems to be a world trend. More marijuana is being grown here in Canterbury, and the Australian police report huge seizures this summer as well.

"It is used by people across the board, but the distressing aspect is the growing number of reports of younger people trying it. It is hoped more people will read about the harmful effects of cannabis before they think about trying it," Mr Muddiman said.

Low THC Content

Christchurch THE PRESS in English 29 Jan 82 p 13

[Text]

Cannabis smokers can suffer side effects ranging from impaired brain function to temporary infertility, according to Detective Chief Inspector B. P. Duncan, of the National Drug Intelligence Bureau.

"Over the years there have been conflicting reports on the effect of cannabis on the human body, but recent studies indicate that marijuana smokers can suffer many harmful side effects," Mr Duncan said from Wellington.

Quoting passages from reports issued by the American Medical Association and the Canadian Mounted Police, Mr Duncan said there was ample proof of the side effects of cannabis.

Tetrahydrocannabinol

(T.H.C.), the substance in cannabis which gives users the "kick" they seek, is the product which causes the side effects, Mr Duncan said.

"Acute cannabis intoxication affects the user's ability to think, learn, comprehend, understand and remember.

"T.H.C. attacks the structural pattern of the brain and many experienced physicians believe that regular use of marijuana affects the user's psychological functions and development as well as emotional growth and learning, especially in children and adolescents.

"One of the major functions to be affected is the reproductive cycle. Cannabis affects the testicles in the male and the ovaries in the female, causing temporary

infertility in many cases," Mr Duncan said.

The menstrual cycle in a female can be upset and the threat of a miscarriage is heightened, according to the reports.

New Zealand cannabis has a low T.H.C. content and this is one of the reasons it is not favoured compared to imported marijuana with a higher concentration.

"New Zealand leaf cannabis has a T.H.C. concentration of less than 1 per cent which is very low compared to other substances. Hashish and hashish oil, for example, can have a T.H.C. concentration as high as 20 per cent and this means that the side effects with these types of drugs are much greater," Mr Duncan said.

CSO: 5320/9121

PAKISTAN

BRIEFS

DRUG PEDDLERS IN GRAVEYARDS--City's decaying graveyards have become centres of drug peddlers and anti-social elements. The District Excise staff and the Police on Friday seized huge quantity of narcotic from Lahore's two premier graveyards at G.T. Road in Moghalpura and graveyard Shah Abul Moali in Gowalmandi. Charas weighing 735 gram and opium 50 gram was seized from the graveyard Bhuddo ka Ava at G.T. Road from a narcotic vendor, Ashraf Kashmiri, who was arrested from the graveyard red-handed. From graveyard Shah Abul Moali in Gowalmandi, 1120 gram charas and 65 gram opium was seized by the District Excise staff from Ramzan alias Jana, a worker of notorious narcotic vendor, Akram, who is absconding. In yet another raid at Krishna Gali, Gowalmandi, Mohammad Yasin was arrested and 175 gram charas and 35 gram opium seized from his possession. His accomplice Shahid alias Chattaki managed to escape. [Text] [Lahore THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 27 Feb 82 p 3]

NARCOTICS VENDORS HELD--Five narcotic vendors were arrested from different places in Lahore and charas and opium weighing four kilograms was seized from their possession. The gang, operating at the Lahore Railway Station, was smashed by the District Excise Staff and four persons including their ring leader Allah Ditta alias Jatta, were arrested. About 3,130 kilograms charas was also seized from them. Jatta used a railway cabin opposite platform No 3 for the sale of charas, mostly among the railway employees. Three other arrested are Tafe Shah, Yousuf and Pervaiz. Opium weighing 895 grams and charas 940 grams was also seized from village Bhagali in Burki area. One person, identified as Hidayat Ali was arrested. [Text] [Lahore THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 2 Mar 82 p 6]

NARCOTICS HAUL IN HYDERABAD--Hyderabad, March 3--As a result of a campaign launched jointly by the Martial Law authorities and the police sizeable stocks of narcotics have been recovered from Hyderabad. During the course of the operation the law enforcing agencies recovered 1,553 litres of country-made whisky, 2.8 kgs of charas, 15 kgs of hashish, 32 bottles of whisky and 250 grams of opium. [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 4 Mar 82 p 6]

AID PROJECT DOCUMENT SIGNED--Islamabad, March 3--The United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control (UNFDAC) will extend to Pakistan 300,000 dollars for activities aimed at strengthening Pakistan's capacity to deal with the growing drug abuse problem. A project document to this effect was signed here today by a representative of the Economic Affairs Division on behalf of the Government of Pakistan and by Himalaya Rana, UNDP Resident Representative on behalf of the Fund. Financing of the project comes from the UNFDAC which already finances projects in Pakistan dealing with rural development and crop replacement for opium poppy and with the treatment and rehabilitation of addicts. The newly-signed project of one-year duration will augment the operational capacity of the Pakistan Narcotics Control Board (PNCB), primarily in the law enforcement field. The main focus will be the provision of adequate transport. This greater mobility is vital to the PNCB in dealing with the alarming appearance and spread of high grade heroin in Pakistan. The support is being provided by UNFDAC through the United Nations Division of Narcotics Drugs, the main UN technical body in the narcotics field. The project also contains a provision for the preparation of a longer term project for possible funding by UNFDAC upon completion of the present one-year effort.--PPI [Text] [Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 4 Mar 82 p 8]

CHARAS SEIZED--The Excise Police, as a part of drive launched by the Martial Law Authorities, against the anti-social elements, unearthed a four-man gang of smugglers of charas and seized from their possession 120 kilos of charas near the Bagha Jinnah yesterday. According to the Excise Police sources the contraband cargo, if smuggled abroad, would fetch the gang about one crore of rupees in the foreign market. The reports said that three members of the gang identified as Wali Khan, Juma Gul and Mir Kashim were going in a car No. 306-063 from Bara Market of the Super Highway with the contraband cargo, the excise police, after a tipoff, chased the suspected car and intercepted it near Jinnah Park. A search of the car produced 40 kilos of charas of the highest quality from the boot. The three, riding in the car, were taken into custody. They later led the arresting officers to their fourth colleague, Zahir Khan, in the Clifton area, where he was waiting for them with 80 kilos more. This too, was seized. The gang members are suspected to have links with international racketeers in drug smuggling. Excise Police have taken the remand of the accused persons from the Summary Military Court till March 5 and were being intensely interrogated. The raid was conducted under the supervision of Mr Saghir, Excise Taxation Officer, the reports said. [Text] [Karachi MORNING NEWS in English 3 Mar 82 p 5]

NARCOTIC PEDDLERS ROUNDED UP--The local police rounded up some narcotic peddlars from different parts of the city on Wednesday. A raid was conducted on the den of one Karim in the Malir area and two peddlars, Dad Mohammad and Mohammad Haneef were arrested. Ten bottles of whisky were seized from the possession of Dad Mohammad while 500 grams charas from the possession of Haneef. An alleged notorious narcotic pedlar, Masroof Khan was arrested the CIA following recovery of 35 kilograms of charas from his possession. In yet another case, one Nazeer was hauled up by the police in the Keamari area and 400 grams of charas was found on him. In other cases or recoveries Gulberg police picked up one Khalid and a revolver was seized from his

possession. One Zulfiqar wanted in a case of arms ordinance by the Liaquatabad police was arrested in the Preedy area during the patrol and one licensed sten-gun and 104 rounds of cartridges were found on him. New Town police arrested one Mohammad Akram, and recovered stolen property worth about Rs. 22,000 from his possession. [Text] [Karachi MORNING NEWS in English 5 Mar 82 p 5]

CHARAS, OPIUM SEIZURE--Karachi, 7 Feb--A task force consisting of Crime Branch and Narcotics Control personnel arrested a Mr Manzoor and recovered 410 kilograms of charas worth 2 crore rupees. The suspect has also been identified by a German Interpol agent currently in Pakistan. Reportedly, the task force was informed that a certain individual was trying to smuggle charas to the United States and Canada. Thus alerted, members of the task force began watching the airport. This morning they stopped a car and seized two parcels containing undershirts, with charas hidden underneath. The charas weighed 60 kilos. The parcels had the labels of an export firm. After his arrest and interrogation, the suspect revealed his residence in the Defense Society where an additional 350 kilograms of charas and 4 kilograms of opium were recovered. It is reported that the suspect had been arrested by customs in 1979 and in Denmark in 1980 for smuggling narcotics. The task force and the Interpol agent are now investigating to determine if the suspect has any connection with an international group. [Text] [Karachi JANG in Urdu 8 Feb 82 p 1] 9484

ARREST OF CHARAS DEALER--Karachi, 14 Feb--Excise Police (South Division) raided a house in the Baghdadi area and seized 81 kilograms of charas worth 1 crore rupees. A major charas dealer was arrested. According to reports, Mr Nasim Siddiqi, director general of excise, was informed that a large quantity of charas was being brought to the Baghdadi area. He instructed the head of the South Division of Excise Police to take the proper action. A team was organized headed by subinspector Shaukat Bukhari. It immediately put under surveillance the house of one Abdul Majid in Phul Pati where, it was suspected, the charas was to be delivered. This morning, four bags were unloaded at the house from a Suzuki van. The police subsequently entered and searched the house and seized the four bags, which contained 81 kilos of charas with an estimated value on foreign markets of 1 crore rupees. Mr Abdul Majid is reportedly a member of the Sheru Dadal family, of Liari, well-known dealers of narcotics. He is also said to be involved in smuggling and supplying charas together with Mr Daojat, yet another notorious smuggler and now a fugitive. It is also believed that in addition to smuggling charas overseas, Abdul Majid was also supplying it to foreign sailors. He is being further questioned by Excise Police. [Text] [Karachi JANG in Urdu 15 Feb 82 p 2] 9484

BALUCHISTAN HEROIN SEIZURE--Islamabad, 24 Feb--Border police in Pakistan's Baluchistan Province today seized a large quantity of heroin and foreign currency from smugglers disguised as Afghan nomads, official sources said. The smugglers had concealed heroin worth 20 million rupees (two million dollars) and Afghan currency valued at 10,000 dollars on camel backs under their own belongings and household goods, they said. Border police, after blocking mountainous terrain, arrested two smugglers armed with revolvers and impounded four camels at Taftan on Pakistan's border with Iran. Meanwhile, customs sources in the North-West Frontier Province, bordering Afghanistan, today announced the seizure of 433 kilos of opium and 315 kilos of hashish in a raid conducted by their mobile squad near the garrison town of Nowshera. [Rangoon THE WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY in English 26 Feb 82 p 6]

PHILIPPINES

STIFFER ANTIDRUG LAW SIGNED

Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 3 Mar 82 pp 1, 6

[Text]

PRESIDENT MARCOS yesterday signed into law a tough anti-drugs measure that imposes prison sentences of up to 20 years on persons with marijuana or opium seeds in their possession.

The law, which takes effect immediately, amends the Dangerous Drugs Act of 1972 (RA 6425) which has become inadequate to cope with a mounting drug problem.

The President signed the new dangerous drugs law in the presence of members of the Batasang Pambansa headed by Speaker Querube Makalintal and police officials led by Lt. Gen. Fidel V. Ramos, PC chief.

The new law also imposes stiff prison terms and heavy fines for unauthorized possession of marijuana leaves, prohibited or banned drugs and even regulated drugs or those that require a doctor's prescription.

THE UPSURGE in marijuana abuse led to the speedy enactment of the new law.

Last year, government agents discovered more than 200 marijuana plantations in 50 provinces. About 236 persons were arrested in connection with the illegal marijuana cultivation.

THE NEW anti-drugs law provides:

- Unauthorized possession of marijuana leaves will be penalized with six to 12 years imprisonment and a fine of P6,000 to P12,000. (Under the old law, the penalty was only six months to six years imprisonment and a fine of from P600 to P6,000).

- Unauthorized possession of prohibited drugs such as opium, heroin, morphine, coca leaf, cocaine, mescaline, lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD), and other narcotic and hallucinogenic drugs, will be punished with imprisonment of 12 to 20 years, and a fine of P12,000 to P30,000. (Under the old law, the penalty was only six years to 12 years imprisonment and a fine of from P6,000 to P12,000.)

- Unauthorized possession or use of regulated drugs, such as barbiturates, will be penalized with imprisonment of six to 12 years and a fine of P6,000 to P12,000.

- If a drug dependent voluntarily submits himself for confinement, treatment and rehabilitation in a center, he will not be criminally liable for possession or use of drugs.

- Cultivation of Indian hemp, opium poppy or any other plant

from which prohibited drugs are extracted will be penalized with a jail term ranging from 14 years to life imprisonment and a fine of P14,000 to P30,000.

IN THE CASE of landowners in whose properties illegal drug cultivation is found, they should prove that they did not know of the activity despite "exercise of due diligence" on their part to escape liability from prosecution.

If the prohibited plants are found in public or government owned property, the cultivator could end up with a life sentence and a fine of P30,000.

The new law also provides that law enforcers or arresting officers who fail to account for seized drugs could face absolute perpetual disqualification from public office. They could also face prison terms of from eight to 12 years and fines of from P10,000 to P20,000.

Under the law, prohibited drugs include opium and its active components or derivatives, such as heroin and morphine, coca leaf and its derivatives, particularly cocaine, and Indian hemp or marijuana and its derivatives.

CSO: 5300/4925

PHILIPPINE

STRONGER DRUG LAW, STIFFER PENALTIES ANNOUNCED

Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 9 Feb 82 p 8

[Text]

MANILA (PNA) — Legislators have plugged the loopholes in the Dangerous Drugs Act of 1972 to strengthen its enforcement.

Dangerous drugs board Director Manuel Supnet says the new law eases past law enforcement difficulties and imposes stiffer penalties for violators.

For possession of all kinds of prohibited drugs, the penalty now is 12 to 20 years imprisonment and a fine of from P12,000 to P20,000. Before, it was six years to 12 years imprisonment and P6,000 to P12,000 fine.

For marijuana, possession is punishable with six to 12 years imprisonment and a fine of P6,000 to P12,000. The penalty before was six months to six years imprisonment and a fine ranging from P600 to P6,000.

For cultivation of plants which are sources of prohibited drugs, 14 years to life imprisonment and a fine of P14,000 to P30,000.

To escape liability from this provision, the land's owner must

prove that he did not know of its cultivation despite the exercise of due diligence on his part.

While the same penalty was prescribed for cultivation of these plants, the new measure has added a provision that if these plants are planted on public domain, the penalty is life imprisonment and a P30,000 fine will be imposed on the cultivator.

The old provision allowing the government to confiscate and escheat the land where the plants grow has embraced even greenhouses in which drug sources are cultured.

Law enforcers or apprehending officers who misappropriate or fail to account for seized dangerous drugs will now face absolute perpetual disqualification from office, in addition to the previous penalties of eight to 12 years imprisonment and fine of P10,000 to P20,000.

He said marijuana, remains the choice of abusers, followed by non-medical use of cough preparations and tranquilizers and

glue sniffing.

Marijuana cultivation remains geographically widespread but Northern and Central Luzon accounted for 90 per cent of the total plants or seedling seized.

In 1981, 249 cultivation sites in 50 provinces, including Metro Manila, were immobilized, resulting in the seizure of 428,251 plants seedlings and the arrest of 236 persons.

Supnet says that while the drug situation is still "manageable," the new law should prevent the problem from worsening.

"In 1980, there were 2,587 drug-related arrests which increased 15 per cent to 2,965 in 1982, said Supnet.

Of these cases, 90 per cent are marijuana-related, he added.

Marijuana seeds, formerly not covered by the law, are now defined as a prohibited drug. The absence of this provision had resulted in the acquittal of one person by the court of appeals.

(C E. Espiritu)

PHILIPPINES

MARIHUANA PLANTS SEIZED AT MOUNTAIN PLANTATION

Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 1 Mar 82 pp 1, 11

[Text]

Constabulary soldiers discovered last week a two-hectare marijuana plantation in a mountainous terrain in barangay Bugallion, Infanta, Pangasinan.

Marijuana plants valued at ₱70 million were seized during the raid.

According to the PC raiders, the plantation is concealed by thick forest.

The raiders also found five huts and empty shells of Garand and carbine rifles, confirming military suspicion that dissidents were engaged in marijuana production to raise funds.

Col. Alfonso Camayang, Pangasinan PC-INP commander, said the two raiding teams took three days to uproot 346,000 marijuana plants and haul these to two areas where they were burned in the presence of the barangay captain and a school principal.

In his report to Gen.

Fidel Ramos, PC chief, and Gen. Victorino Azada, regional commander, Camayang said the discovery of the plantation came after intensive surveillance and searches of suspected marijuana plantation sites.

In a related development, Lt. Col. Benito Jose, deputy provincial commander, said Dagupan city policemen led by Maj. Jose Bandung, confiscated recently a large amount of dried marijuana leaves from a city resident suspected to be a distributor of marijuana and other dangerous drugs.

Colonel Jose also reported that Tayug PC/INP company commander, Wilner Panabang, together with Urdaneta police chief Tom Sullivan, confiscated marijuana leaves contained in plastic bags. (Lor Pastor)

CSO: 5300/4925

SOUTH KOREA

SECRET TRANSACTIONS IN AMPHETAMINES REPORTED

Seoul SINDONGA in Korean Jan 82 pp 272-287

[Article by Ch'oe Yon-an, a reporter of the First Local News Section, YONHAP NEWS SERVICE]

[Text] Horizontal and vertical organizations associated with the manufacture, distribution, retail sale and smuggling of amphetamines are more elaborate than those for smuggling other merchandise. Since they are very small organizations, the body and tail are missing if the head is caught, and the top is missing if the tail is caught.

Horror of White Powder

As materially oriented cultures develop further, a spiritual void grows in man, and man tries simply to fill the void with something stimulating. Thus, wherever man lives, there are stimulants and hallucinogens.

Over the years, these stimulants have been studied and developed into new and more convenient drugs. They were developed secretly in dark corners because they were not desirable drugs.

Amphetamines followed narcotics after the Korean war, and marijuana came in the sixties. In the late seventies, amphetamines (scientific name--methamphetamines), which are called the white horror, spread like a fire in an oil tank. The drugs have infiltrated so deeply and widely that they are everywhere within our reach. Hallucination, fantasy, and other psychological disorders caused by illusion have led to murder, arson, rape, and other crimes and have begun to be serious social problems. Just as there are many pharmacological actions of amphetamines, there are many far-reaching and serious effects of the powder.

Early this year [1981], a woman in her twenties was murdered and dismembered in Pusan. The murderer was Miss K [age 25], a pretty daughter of a decent family, and the victim was her friend, Mrs P (age 25), who was married 6 months ago. They were classmates in high school and junior college and had

been close friends. The reason Miss K hated her friend was simple. She was angry that Mrs P had left her alone to get married, and she hated to see Mrs P show off expensive jewelry, including a diamond ring, from her husband. The diamond ring and other jewelry did not mean much to Miss K, who grew up in a rich family.

Miss K phoned her friend on the afternoon of 31 January [1981]. She urged her friend to return to the happy days before her marriage by sharing some hallucinogens. Mrs P readily accepted the offer. After their graduation from junior college, they had occasion to use a stimulant while loitering about in town. After the encounter, they continued to indulge in stimulants and became addicted. For a while, they participated in hallucination sessions with many others, but gradually they enjoyed the drugs by themselves. When their families became suspicious, they went from one hotel to another for the drug trips, until they parted because of Mrs P's marriage.

Miss K was more seriously addicted than her friend. After Miss K talked her friend into going out, she took Mrs P to her own isolated room. They took what was supposed to be hallucinogen powder in order to enjoy life as before. The powder, however, was not a hallucinogen but 22 crushed sleeping pills. Mrs P became unconscious immediately.

With her scarf, Miss K choked her unconscious friend to death. She took 7.2 million won worth of jewelry--the diamond ring and a gold necklace. She moved the victim to an adjacent bathroom, stripped her, and cut her up into six pieces with a knife she had hidden earlier.

The Criminal Section of Pusan District Court sentenced her to 15 years' imprisonment and declared that "she had used drugs excessively at the time of the crime, and was mentally handicapped so that she could not properly react under even a minor stimulation." The prosecutor asked for the death penalty for the murder. Experts analyzed Miss K's psychological state at the time of the crime and concluded that she acted out of delusions of jealousy caused by her addiction to amphetamines.

The pharmacological action of amphetamines is roughly classified into two categories: stimulation of the central nervous system and stimulation of the peripheral nervous system. When amphetamines are taken, tiredness and unpleasantness disappear, and alertness is lost in hallucinations and fantasies, sometimes leading to bold crimes. After a person is addicted to the drugs through frequent usage, he begins to exhibit psychopathic symptoms such as delusions of persecution or of being followed, or suffering jealousy. The crimes committed by the drug addicts are classified according to the type of delusions they suffer.

Psychopathic Symptoms Appear

Various types of incidents are caused by delusions of persecution.

Wu ki-man and his gang, who were arrested as drug dealers by the Pusan District Prosecutor's Office, injected amphetamines into each other because

they were afraid that one of them might leave the gang and inform the police. One of them, Kim (age 38), refused to take the drugs. So the gang forced a large quantity of drugs on him for a week until he became unconscious. Kim is known to have lost his ability to function for a long period because he could not recover from the addiction.

Such incidents occur frequently. Youth gangs often use amphetamines to maintain their organizations, and commit crimes utilizing the boldness gained after taking the drugs. The drugs are also used to enjoy sexual orgies.

Addicts who have delusions of persecution do not want to be treated even when they are sick, because they believe that the doctor is trying to kill them by injecting poison. There are many addicts who carry dangerous weapons to kill any family member or friend who shows interest in them because they believe that these people are trying to report them to the authorities.

Miss G (age 24, from Pusan), who worked in a tea room, was taking care of her widowed mother. She saved 5 million won in 5 years, and gave it to her mother. Six months ago, she met a scoundrel who provided her with amphetamines and she became an addict. Last month, she threatened her mother with a deadly weapon, accusing her mother of trying to report her to the police. The police arrested her.

Another addict, Miss Yi (age 27, from Pusan), went into a hotel room, proclaiming that everyone in the world was trying to kill her. She accused the hotel owner of locking her up in the hotel room and watching her with a video camera. She reported the owner to the police. When police came to the hotel and found her hiding under a quilt, she brandished a fruit knife, accusing them of trying to kill her.

The addicts who have delusions of jealousy commit horrible crimes such as dismembering their victims. One addict came home and became suspicious of his wife who was taking a bath. When he saw the bed was not neatly made, he decided to kill her because he had the delusion that she was taking a bath after having an affair with another man. He mercilessly beat her with a club.

Another addict with a beautiful wife suspected that a business acquaintance was trying to seduce her and he began to follow him with a hidden weapon. He began to have the delusion after he was released from prison. His delusions became worse as time passed, and he began to spy on his own house and the acquaintance's house every night to catch him in the act. His wife could not stand his cruel demands that she confess and she left him. The acquaintance asked the police to protect his life.

Those who have delusions of being followed commit acts based on fallacy. An addict set fire to his own house when the windows rattled from the wind and lights from passing cars shone on the windows, because he thought that someone was coming to the house to kill him. He wanted to stay in prison or at the police station, which he considered the safest place. Another addict collided with a car while driving recklessly, seized by a delusion of being chased.

There are examples of multiple delusions.

Pak (age 26), an addict arrested by the Pusan District Prosecutor's Office, had multiple delusions. He avoided meeting friends because he thought they would take away the 3,000 court ladies with whom he had dates, pointing to the blue tattoos on his arm. He claimed that he talked with god through his hair. Also, he accused his wife of having an affair and of trying to poison him. Pak was a typical case of multiple delusions.

As these examples show, crimes related to amphetamines are diverse. In Korea, the connection between amphetamine addiction and crime has been verified, but no research or analysis has been carried out.

In Japan, which is the suzerain state of amphetamines, analyses are carried out every year, according to cause and type of crimes. A total of 550 amphetamine-related crimes were committed (by 569 persons) during 1976 in Japan. Felonies occupied a substantial fraction of the crimes: there were 25 murders (by 24 persons), 11 cases of arson (by 10 persons), 8 cases of robbery (by 11 persons), and 13 cases of rape (by 16 persons).

Desperate Escape

Kim T'ae-chin (age 28, from Yangjong 4-tong, Tongnae-Ku, Pusan), who was a crew member on a freighter that served the Japanese route, the No 9 Namsong-ho (owned by the Sinhung Marine Transportation Co), tried to smuggle 4 kg of amphetamines (worth 400 million yen) into Japan. He was intercepted by Japanese customs, and escaped in a last-ditch effort.

Kim, who was the chef on the ship, decided to become an amphetamine smuggler because he decided he could not make money without taking risks. In late June of last year, he bought 4 kg of powder (a nickname for amphetamines) while the ship was anchored in P'ohang. He brought it aboard disguised as work clothes and asked the chief engineer, Chong Hyong-chu (age 26, from Namhae, Kyongsang-Namdo), to hide it. He thought that would be safer because Chong had a single room, while he shared his room with other crew members.

Kim promised to pay Chong 300,000 yen for hiding the drugs. They hid the well-wrapped drugs between two walls by removing the nails from a 30 cm long piece of plywood. They put the nails back in and restored the wall to its original appearance.

The freighter arrived at the port of Osaka around 9 am on 3 July. More than 10 Japanese customs officials came aboard and searched the ship thoroughly. The officials saw something hidden in the wall through a rat hole in Chong's room and began to tear the wall apart. Chong became scared, began to worry about getting caught, and told Kim that he was going to escape.

Chong immediately jumped ship. When he paused to catch his breath, he looked back toward the port. He saw a familiar Korean ship among the many berthed there. It was the Kukdong-ho, another freighter that served the

same route. He went to the ship and looked for the chief engineer. He hoped that the chief engineer might be someone he knew professionally.

He explained his urgent situation, and begged for a hiding place to return to Korea. He promised to pay 1 million won in Korea. He was stowed away under the anchor near the bow. The Kuktong-ho returned to Mukho 5 days later, and Chong safely escaped from Japan.

The drugs were confiscated and the story of the escape of the Korean crew member was reported in detail 2 days later, on 5 July, by the Japanese newspaper YOMIURI SHINBUN. The paper reported that the amount confiscated, 4 kg, was the largest confiscated in 1981, worth 1.2 billion yen (3.6 billion won) on the [Japanese] market. The paper also reported that a recent murder in Koto-ku, Japan, was committed by an addict of stimulant drugs, and it reported many stories about amphetamines in detail.

The crew of the Namsong-ho, along with Chong and Kim, were arrested by the Pusan District Prosecutor's Office after they returned to Korea. They were staff crew members of the freighter with more than 5 years of working experience each, but were paid only a little over 170,000 won per month.

Toward the end of October 1979, a secret group of amphetamine dealers with seven members led by Kil T'ae-in (age 51, from Seoul) established contact with the largest organized gang in Japan, Sumiyoshigumi of Tokyo. Son Yol (age 51, from Huamtong, Yongsan-ku, Seoul), who was in charge of drug sales, met a member of the Japanese gang, Akidaya (age 50), at the Ambassador Hotel while Son was looking for foreign customers who wanted to buy amphetamines. Son pretended that he was a tourist guide and that Akidaya was staying at the hotel as a tourist.

The deal was simple. The price per kilogram of amphetamines was set at 3.5 million yen. After his return to Japan, Akidaya would signal by placing an international call to the address of a Mr Kobayashi, to whom the amphetamines would be sent either by air or by surface mail. As soon as the drugs were received, a member of the gang would come to Korea as a tourist to pay for the drugs.

The Japanese volunteered to pay 3.5 million yen in advance for the first deal, to establish their credit. The first shipment was successfully sent hidden in a stationery chest disguised as a tourist gift. The second deal was made on 15 January 1980. The leader of the Sumiyoshigumi, Tanaka, came to the Ambassador Hotel, paid 3.5 million yen to Son, and asked for 1 kg of amphetamines be sent by the same method.

Struggles Among Organized Gangs

Son passed the money to Yi Chang-hyon (age 51, in charge of transporting the drugs), and asked him to deliver the money to their leader, Kil. But Yi spent it all. Kil insisted that he could not deliver the drugs without advance payment. More than 10 days passed while they argued among themselves. Then

the leader of the Japanese gang, Tanaka, made an international phone call. He threatened to "send someone to kill all of you unless the promise is quickly fulfilled," and to "eliminate your organization by reporting you to the Korean police."

Son was scared; he paid Kil 3 million won, and begged him to share the loss and to send 1 kg of the drugs to Japan because he was afraid of retaliation. Kil agreed, and Paek Ch'ong-kil (age 51, from Seoul), who was in charge of transportation, carried the drugs.

Two months later, Tanaka threatened again and demanded that more amphetamines be sent. Following instructions from Tanaka, Son met Akidaya--whom he had met earlier--again in Seoul in March of the same year [1980]. Akidaya demanded the price be reduced to 2 million yen per kilogram because "you betrayed us," and ordered Son to immediately ship the drugs.

Son and other Korean drug dealers tried to terminate the business because they did not want to continue under such conditions. The Japanese gang were aware of the discontent and did not remain idle. On 23 April 1980, Tanaka ordered Son by phone to meet Ichinoki (age 37, from 533 Nagashima-cho, Edogawak-ku, Tokyo) at the Hotel M. Son could not talk back, and he just listened. Ichinoki paid 2 million yen, and demanded 4 kg of amphetamines be sent to Japan right away.

The trouble multiplied. The Korean dealers decided to comply because they feared for their lives. They hid amphetamines in two stationery chests and a hollowed-out scroll rod; they were looking for a freighter to ship them when they were arrested by the Pusan District Prosecutor's Office. Kil, who was in charge of the dealers as well as manufacturing the drugs, was seriously addicted. He was administering the drugs to himself.

Many Koreans in Japan are also victimized by organized Japanese gangs.

A typical case is Mrs Kim Pok-nam (age 54, from Hiroshima, Japan), a Korean resident of Japan who was arrested when she tried to leave Korea from Kimhae Airport on a JAL flight at 3 pm on 19 August 1980. She was arrested for trying to smuggle 210 grams of amphetamines hidden under her corset. Her husband was a member of another Japanese gang, Yamaguchigumi. He was sent to Pusan as a tourist last June by the gang. He bought 1 kg of amphetamines, but he was caught by a customs official in Osaka when he returned to Japan. He was held responsible for the failure.

The organized gang threatened his wife, Kim because of the loss of drugs and money. On 30 July, a month after her husband's arrest, three members of the gang took Kim to a tea room in Hatchobori, Hiroshima, and threatened to harm the couple unless she smuggled amphetamines from Korea.

After agonizing for more than 10 days, she finally went to Pusan. As directed by the gang, she contacted a man in his forties by phone, and met him at the Kumch'ang Tea Room in Chung-ku, Pusan. She paid 700,000 yen for 210 grams of amphetamines, which she hid under her corset, but she

was arrested when she tried to leave the country at Kimhae Airport. They became victims of organized crime, each serving jail terms in Japan and Korea.

Addicted Users of Amphetamines

People usually get addicted to narcotics while they are using drugs to kill pain caused by an illness. Amphetamines, however, are used more often by people who are curious about hallucinations or by weak-minded people with a feeling of emptiness. Also, there are recent examples of the drugs being used to trap frequent customers or to control mistresses and spouses.

The underground ring of three drug dealers headed by Pak Tong-uk (age 72), arrested by the Pusan District Prosecutor's Office last March were selling drugs to hostesses in salons in the busy sections of Pusan. They sold drugs to hostesses in more than 10 expensive salons, such as B Salon in Kwangbok-tong, Chung-ku, A Salon in Ch'angson-tong, and P Salon in Somyon.

Miss K (age 23), who admitted that she received three injections from the ring, stated that she took the drugs without knowing what they were after she was persuaded to "have fun because business is slow today." She felt dizzy and her stomach was queasy in the beginning, but as time passed she felt stronger as her senses became dull. Miss K danced all night with eight other hostesses. She did not feel tired at all, thought it was a miracle medicine, and wanted to try it again.

Injections of the drugs were available only through a strictly controlled, tiny organization which was difficult to trace. She could arrange for an injection only through another hostess. She paid only 8,000 won for the first injection, but she had to pay 15,000 won for subsequent injections.

Mun Sang-kun and two others were arrested in April for supplying amphetamines to prostitutes in the Wanwol-tong area of So-ku [Pusan]. The prostitutes were attracted by curiosity to claims such as "makes you feel good, tiredness disappears, and you can enjoy extreme sexual pleasure." They took the drugs without hesitation. First-time users praised the effects of the drugs and enticed their friends. Each injection cost only 5,000-20,000 won, not much of a burden on them.

The frank confessions of these prostitutes, who did not know how to control their feelings, spread like a fire over oil. Among the many who wanted the drugs, the drug dealers were careful to sustain the hallucinations of only those who were likely to keep the dealers' identity secret.

When the authorities began investigating the widespread usage of amphetamines among the prostitutes, the prostitutes showed strong resistance. This was a group for which all the necessary conditions for easy and deep infiltration of the drug business were fulfilled.

Also, the investigators suddenly raided the so-called Texas Village in Ch'oryang-tong, Tong-ku, and broke a secret drug ring involving over 200

waitresses. Here, the investigators arrested two groups led by Pak Man-kun and Kim Myong-kon, a total of six drug dealers.

Habitual gamblers use amphetamines as daily medicine. With 0.2-0.3 milligrams of amphetamine injections. tiredness and unpleasantness disappear. Sleepiness, which is the greatest enemy of those who gamble all night, disappears, and reasoning and judgment are improved.

The 14 habitual gamblers who were arrested by the Tongbu Police District Office in Pusan last May, during a game in which 300 million won was at stake, used amphetamines while they played. The man who supplied the drugs to the gamblers was the owner of the gambling casino, Yi Won-ch'ol (age 37, from Chungil-tong, Haeundae-ku, Pusan). Yi himself was an addict and he sold only to gamblers. The arrested gamblers were likewise addicted through numerous injections. Many of them had not only become addicts but they had also lost heavily. Kang Chang-kil (age 43, from Pusanjin-ku), who was exhausted, lost 50 million won; Pak Chong-to (age 40, from Haeundae-ku) lost 10 million won.

During the investigation, the police were shocked to find a 19-year-old girl almost ruined physically from her addiction to amphetamines. She was Miss Y, who flunked the entrance examination to a professional school after her graduation from a girl's high school last February. Miss Y did not want to study any longer after she failed the entrance examination, and took a job at an employment agency in Pujon-tong, Pusanjin-ku, at a monthly salary of 60,000 won.

At the agency, Miss Y met Mrs K, a mistress of Yi, who was the owner of the gambling casino and an amphetamine addict. She met Yi through Mrs K, who called him her brother. In early April, Yi met Miss Y when she was going home after work, and suggested that she take an injection of vitamins because she looked very tired. Miss Y recalled that in about 15 minutes "I felt languid, my thinking was clouded, and when I tried to walk, I felt as if the floor was rising to hit my forehead." She added that in 50 minutes "everything was in color, as if I was watching color TV with oscillating pictures, but I felt strong."

Miss Y took six injections during a period of over 40 days, until 10 May, and participated in sexual acts with Yi and Mrs K.

When the police rescued her, she was still in a daze and shamelessly exposed her body. Miss Y said that Yi had been sad because he was not satisfied with his sexual performance, but he could prolong his sexual act for more than 5-6 hours after he began to inject the drugs into himself.

Miss Y, who is the eldest daughter of a transportation businessman, is mild-mannered and shy and blushes often. She wrote of her sorrow in her diary. "I am losing myself. Stupid girl. I am afraid of everything. I wish I could return to my old self. I wish I could live with no concern for love, truth, sorrow,..."

Now Miss Y lives in tears; she says: "I am afraid of men. I hate society and myself."

The members of the Yonghun group (led by Kim Song-ch'ol, age 35, from Taegu) and the Hanch'ol group (led by Han Ch'ol, age 50, from Pusan) widely infiltrated among young people 20 to 30 years old. They supplied drugs to any customer. They sold drugs for 5,000 won or more per dose to gangsters, factory workers, office workers, and waitresses. The eight members of the networks also administered drugs to themselves and roamed among the dregs of society.

The prosecutor's office confirmed that there were more than 60 young addicts who were customers of the arrested dealers. The victims were separated [from other criminals] and treated as they were picked up. One of them, Pak (age 20, from Soku, Pusan), was such a serious case that his eyeballs were clouded and he talked deliriously.

The Kija group, consisting of three women (arrested last July), sold drugs only to women such as rich housewives, private savings club members, and merchants. They trapped the victims by claiming: "You will become slim, vigorous, and your pains will disappear." The victims were injected with drugs, and they continued to visit the dealers for more.

Mrs Kim (age 45), owner of a dress shop, administered amphetamines to retain rich customers who ordered many expensive dresses by telling them that she had a "special medicine that is good for you." The six dealers of the Namgangbyon group (arrested in June) of Chinju supplied drugs to rich and ill people in western Kyongsang-Namdo and made them addicts. This confirms the fact that drugs have even reach the countryside.

Big-Time Manufacturers of Amphetamines

Of those alive now, the most expert in manufacturing drugs was Sim Sang-ho (age 53, alias Kkamsang [dark face], now under arrest). He was the originator, and his disciples were the leaders in the seventies. The five big-time makers of drugs, Yi Hwang-sun (age 46, from Pusan), O Pong-so (age 51, from Pusan), Kim Tok-chun (age 49, from Seoul), Ch'oe Chae-to (age 50, from Pusan), and Kim Pyong-chik (age 50, from Pusan), were all students of Sim. They all set up their own businesses after they learned the trade.

Of these men, the most notorious was Yi Hwang-sun. In September 1979, he built a fabulous palace-like resort house on a hill in Minnak-tong, Nam-ku, Pusan, overlooking Haeundae. The walls of the house were as high as those of a prison, and electrified barbed wire was installed ~~at~~ ^{on} of them.

The outer gate and the inner gate ~~were~~ ^{were} meters apart, a three-dimensional video surveillance ~~system~~ ^{system} installed, and the entire periphery of the ~~house~~ ^{house} could be watched from inside a room. There was a secret passage from a second-floor 80 p'yong [259 square meter] living room to the basement

where the drugs were made. In the basement, 163 kg of amphetamines were made in 3 years, between September 1976 and July 1979. These were worth 1.6 billion won in Korea or 16.3 billion yen in Japan (49 billion won).

Yi was also addicted to drugs. He had almost become an invalid when he was arrested by officers of the Special Section of the Pusan District Prosecutor's Office in April 1980. He was a victim of delusions of persecution and of being followed, a common situation among addicts.

In his living room and bedroom, he kept a shotgun with 60 rounds of ammunition. He also had two long Japanese swords. In the yard, he kept three vicious, well-trained dogs unleashed. When investigators tried to arrest him, he kept them at bay with the shotgun and mercilessly shot two of the dogs to death when the investigators closed in.

To avoid the investigators, he carried a forged resident registration card and driver's license, and drove an imported Nova with the license plate designation Seoul O Ka 3712. Before he was arrested, he spent a large sum of money to bribe the police and drug control agents when he learned that his past associates were being arrested.

After Yi was arrested in September 1980, the originator, Sim, and two big-time manufacturers, O and Kim, were also arrested by the prosecutor's office. As former teacher and students, they maintained close links through joint manufacturing and sales, which led to the arrest of the three big fish together.

Since they had mastered advanced skills, they chose to mass produce in one place and supply drug networks in order to avoid the risk associated with making drugs in small quantities. They may have been able to avoid the law and control the market as long as they did because of this tactic.

Sim had been convicted only once before, in June 1973, by the Seoul District Court for violating the law on habit-forming drugs. He was sentenced to 2 years in prison and 4 years' probation. Sim claimed that he owned only 300 million won worth of property; he held eight responsible positions, such as board chairman of a village savings cooperative. The prosecutor's office even boasted that it got rid of all the notable amphetamine dealers of the seventies by arresting these people.

Powder Worth 100 Million Yen per Kilogram

The manufacturing centers of the drugs were concentrated in the Seoul and Pusan areas until the mid-seventies, but then they spread to the Ch'ungch'ong provinces and Kyonggido. Recently, the entire country came under surveillance, including Chejudo.

Among those who were exposed by the authorities, the Insong-ho group of Ch'ungmu, which used fresh-fish exporting boats, turned out to have developed the simplest but most productive machines.

The group was arrested last July by the Pusan District Prosecutor's office. Kang Tong-kyu (age 54), who was in charge of drug manufacture, succeeded in mechanizing the amphetamine manufacturing process. Kang learned the manufacturing trade from Japan 3 years ago, and decided to design a new machine because he judged that the old method, with 18 to 20 manufacturing steps, could easily be detected by the authorities.

Through Japanese literature and experiments, he designed two modern machines, a hydrogen gas injector and a vacuum pump. Last April, he succeeded in fabricating the machines on the basis of his design. The injector had incredible efficiency, replacing over 20 devices used in the old method. Wheels were installed on the vacuum pump to move it around. The design was adapted to disperse the smell from the manufacturing process. Kang made over 10 kg at his home in Pusan with the new machine, which reduced the manufacturing process to seven or eight steps. He sold the product through dealer networks.

The dealer of hydrochloride ephedrine, which is raw material needed to make amphetamines, is 400,000 to 500,000 won per kilogram. It can be bought for one-tenth the price, or 40,000 to 50,000 won, in areas of Southeast Asia such as Hong Kong and Taiwan. In other words, one can make a 10-fold profit over the initial investment. For low-ranking crew members of trading ships, the merchandise is worth smuggling.

From 1 kg of raw material, 800 to 900 grams of amphetamines can be produced on the average, while an experienced hand can recover the full amount, 1 kg. The wholesale price of the finished product is 6-7 million won [per kilogram]. The price goes up by 1 million won with every step the product changes hands. The market price, therefore, is normally quoted as 10 million won per kilogram. The final retail price for a user snowballs to 20,000-30,000 won per gram.

In Japan, the price for intermediate dealers is 10,000 to 15,000 yen per gram, while the cost for the final user is 8,000 to 10,000 yen per 0.3 gram dose. This amounts to over 100 million yen per kilogram. The estimated annual profit of the Japanese gangs from amphetamines is over 10 billion yen.

Almost all amphetamines leaving the country are smuggled into Japan. This is because the manufacturing source moved to Korea from Japan, from which the drugs originated, after Japan harshly cracked down. Large-volume smuggling is carried out by sailors, and small-scale smuggling by travellers. The transportation cost is substantial because of the risks involved, although the cost depends on volume. It can be more than 2 million won per kilogram.

Foreign Investors Are Involved, Too

A notable fact that stood out in the second half of the seventies was the arrest of Japanese, Americans and Korean residents of Japan in connection with the distribution and smuggling of drugs. Two secret distribution networks exposed by prosecutors, the Yosu group and the airport group, were both

financed by Japanese. Purchasing and transportation of the drugs in the two groups were also handled by Japanese and Korean residents of Japan.

The financier of the Yosu group was Saito (age 40). He sent Katahara Kozo (age 43, from Shizuoka Prefecture, Japan), who was in charge of purchasing and transportation, to Korea disguised as a tourist, and had him smuggle 3 kg of amphetamines to Hakata. In February 1980, Katahara bought the drugs from Yi Hyo-kwang (age 43, from Yosu, Cholla-Namdo) for 10.5 million won, and put the drugs on an overseas freighter leaving from Masan.

The chief of the airport group, also Japanese, was Nakshima (age 38, from Fukuoka). A Korean resident of Japan, Sin Ch'ang-hwan (age 34, from Fukuoka), was in charge of purchasing and transportation. He carried a total of 4 kg of amphetamines in four trips from 20 November 1980 through 20 February 1981. The drug dealers carried out their business openly in tourist hotel rooms, which were not closely watched by the authorities.

Seiji Yarata (age 28) and two other Japanese were arrested by the Pusan city police last July, and Furuta Minoru (age 37, from Kumamoto, Japan) and three other Japanese were arrested by prosecutors. All of them came to Korea as tourists, stayed at C Hotel in Pusan for extended periods, and sold amphetamines in small quantities back to Koreans after they had bought the drugs from Koreans. They shamelessly admitted that they paid for the hotel and entertainment expenses from the huge profit they made through selling amphetamines.

An American drug dealer was also arrested. Gold Barney (age 43, from California), was arrested for supplying amphetamines to American soldiers stationed in Korea. A Korean permanent resident of the United States, Kim Kah-nip (age 46), set up a secret plant in Soryu-tong, Suwon, Kyonggido, to manufacture amphetamines. He was in charge of a large organization for manufacturing and smuggling drugs.

From last December until his arrest in July, Kim made 120 liters of liquid amphetamines, worth 1.2 billion won, smuggled 90 liters into the United States and other countries, and sold the rest in Korea through secret sales networks. When his organization was exposed by prosecutors, Kim escaped to the United States.

Treachery, Trickery, and Terror

The manufacture, smuggling, distribution, and sales of amphetamines are carried out by well-protected, small organizations. It is true that these organizations are bound more by mutual trust than any other criminal organizations, but the horror of treachery, trickery, and error is seen everywhere. They cheat and threaten each other to make more money; clubs and deadly weapons are also used.

Here is a complicated story of amphetamine smugglers, based in the port of Ch'ungmu, who were arrested last August by Prosecutor Yi Kang-chae of the

Special Section, Pusan District Prosecutor's Office, while they were using freighters to export fresh fish.

First the story is about the failure to smuggle 5 kg of amphetamines into Japan after taking them there. The failure led to rivalry and treachery in the organization. Kim Su-ki (age 34, from Ch'ungmu, Kyongsang-Namdo) was the owner of the Insong-ho (40 tons), a freighter for exporting fresh fish. He was in charge of [drug] sales and transportation. He was asked last May to deliver 5 kg of amphetamine powder to a Japanese in Uno, Japan, by Kim (age 45) and Chong (age 46), both of whom lived at the Yongdong apartment complex, Kangnam-ku, Seoul. The fee for the transportation service was to be 1.5 million won per kilogram, or a total of 7.5 million won.

The ship owner, who thought he could make a fortune in a simple deal, embarked for Uno with the amphetamines hidden inside 3 tons of fresh fish to be exported to Japan. The freighter suited the purpose perfectly because the ship made two or three round trips to Uno every month.

When he arrived at Uno, he could not locate his contact. Moreover, surveillance was too severe and he could not bring the drugs ashore. He had to leave Japan with the drugs undelivered. The crew members were split over what to do. One group wanted to take the drugs back to Korea and return them to the original owners. The others wanted to bury the drugs near a lighthouse on Tsushima because taking them back was too dangerous, and they wanted to attempt a delivery on their next trip.

The two groups clashed over what to do and got into a fight on board ship during their return trip. Those who wanted to buy the drugs won, and the ship stopped at Tsushima. The sailor who was keeping the drugs was found to have switched a bag of rice for the package, and he was beaten almost to death with iron bars.

A few crew members representing those who wanted to bury the drugs went to the lighthouse with the ship owner, Kim, but they agreed to hide the drugs on board and bring them back to Korea without telling the others. Eventually, they returned to Ch'ungmu with the 5 kg of amphetamines.

The ship owner lied to Kim and Chong, who had asked him to take the drugs to Japan, and told them that the drugs were buried on Tsushima. Kim and Chong demanded that the ship owner immediately bring back the drugs. The ship owner asked for a 5 million won fee to bring them back, but he settled for 2 million won. Three days later, he returned the drugs, which had been hidden in his house. The ship's crew beat up the owner when they found out that he had cheated them and had made a secret deal by himself with the owners of the drugs.

A second incident took place in Japan. The ship owner, Kim, decided to get directly involved in the drug trade instead of just transporting the drugs. He bought 3 kg from drug manufacturer Kang Sang-kyu (age 54, from Tong-ku, Pusan) for 24 million won. Through Ma Yong-nak (age 54, from Ch'ungmu,

Kyongsang-Namdo), a broker, Kim was introduced to Nishi Akamatsu, a Japanese in Uno. Kim promised to pay 1.5 million won to the broker after the deal was successfully consummated.

The ship owner met Nishi in Uno and made a deal to sell the drugs for 3.5 million yen per kilogram, a total of 10.5 million yen. The drugs were to be handed over to Japanese recipients at Miarikobu in Hiroshima Prefecture, a 6-hour trip from Uno by ship. They met at the rendezvous point through a prearranged signal. When the amphetamines were handed over to Nishi and his gang, they insisted that they could pay only 4 million yen for 3 kg of the drugs because the drugs were of low quality.

Kim and his crew, who were being cheated by the Nishi gang, decided to settle the score by fighting them. The two sides separated and prepared for a fight. Then the ship owner decided that he did not have much of a chance to win a fight in a foreign country, and it was too dangerous to return to Korea with the drugs. So he proposed to negotiate. The Nishi gang agreed to pay the balance, 6.5 million yen, through a broker, Ma, provided that Kim would continue to deliver drugs in the future.

After Kim returned to Korea, he and the broker accused each other of treachery and had a big argument. Ma demanded immediate payment of his fee of 1.5 million won because he did not believe that Kim had received only a partial payment for the drugs. On the other hand, Kim blamed Ma for introducing unreliable Japanese, through whom he lost a large sum of money, and demanded that Ma pay the balance of the drug payment that should have come from Japan.

A third conflict occurred between the crew of the Insong-ho led by Kim and the crew of the Sinhae-ho financed by Ha Chae-pong (age 27, from Ch'ungmu, Kyongsang-Namdo). For the delivery of 3 kg of drugs to Japan by the crew of the Insong-ho, Ha invested 10 million won in return for 30 percent of the profit from the deal, but the deal did not succeed as planned. The Sinhae-ho gang lost their investment and threatened to harm the crew of the Insong-ho, causing the two groups, which had been friendly, to fight each other. In the cruel struggle, the two gangs hurt themselves and caused their organizations to crumble.

Networks have been known to be as strong as pig iron. The distributors are most often caught because they must seek out customers or retailers.

When low-echelon members of the networks are caught, the upper-echelon members take care of their families, hire lawyers, and provide full support. This is why those who are caught do not reveal their higher connections in the networks under any circumstances.

They don't open their mouths, no matter how they are appeased or physically pressured. They even try to confuse investigators and help other members of their network to escape.

They deny everything even when they are faced with proof. Even experienced investigators often run into a dead end because of the stubborn refusal of the network members to admit their connections.

The investigation of addicts is more difficult. When physical pressure is applied to distinguish truth from lies, careful treatment is necessary because of physical changes peculiar to addicts. Their bones are calcified and break easily from the slightest external shock. These problems make it very difficult to expose all the members of a network even when some of them are caught.

However, when they are mistreated by their own network while in jail, they seek revenge in a cold-blooded manner. They don't mind informing secretly or accusing publicly to the authorities, or conniving with a rival drug network out of revenge until their network is completely shattered.

Amphetamines as Stimulants

Amphetamines and methamphetamines form the main staple of stimulants. They are similar in chemical structure and in composition to ephedrine and both are compounds that stimulate the sympathetic nerves. Methamphetamines have stronger stimulating action on the central nervous system, are more addictive, and inflict more damage. The trade name for the more damaging methamphetamines is Philopon, which is used as an alias for stimulants.

The main pharmacological actions of methamphetamines can be classified in two categories: stimulation of the central nervous system and of the peripheral nervous system. When a person takes amphetamines, the drugs act on the cerebrum and cortex; he feels free of tiredness and unpleasantness, and becomes talkative. He thinks and judges better and his efficiency increases. The lack of tiredness is a subjective effect resulting from the loss of self-awareness of physical fatigue. In reality, the user of the drugs suffers from severe fatigue, lack of sleep, nervousness, and depression.

Amphetamines also shrink arteries and raise blood pressure. They increase the heart beat and pulse rate, relax cramps in digestive organs such as the stomach and intestines, and stop spasms in the urethra and gall bladder. The motion of digestive organs is subdued, hunger is not felt, and appetite is reduced. The activity of the body, however, is forced to increase, and the body loses balance.

In the case of a healthy person who takes 3 mg of drugs, the effects become apparent from 5 minutes to 2 hours later and last for 3 to 9 hours. If the drugs are injected into a vein, the effects take place quickly. If one were to take 120 mg a day, it could be fatal.

Because of these effects, the drugs are used to treat internal disorders such as hypotension, bronchial asthma, and fainting, and also to treat psychological disorders such as nervous prostration, depression, and poisoning from sleeping pills and similar drugs.

Ephedrine hydrochloride, which is the raw material for amphetamines, is used as the raw material for drugs that treat asthma. The chemical can be imported only for pharmaceutical purposes with the permission of the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs. The ministry supervises usage of the chemical.

To manufacture amphetamines, ephedrine hydrochloride is melted in glacial acetic acid, mixed with a catalyst and perchloric acid, and heated to 80-90°C. Then, the liquid is filtered, more catalyst is added, condensing it in several stages until it is crystallized, and then it is dissolved in water again to make a strong basic solution. This is the first process. There are 10 to 12 steps in the first process. In these steps strong odors are produced. The second process, in which the finished product is made, requires special skill. Gaseous hydrochloric acid is passed over the crystals produced in the first step, and the precipitate hydrochloride salt is recrystallized with acetic acid. The quality of the finished product can only be verified by actual use on people.

Terrible Symptoms of Addiction

Addiction to methamphetamines is classified as acute and chronic.

Chronic addiction results from continued usage of small doses of a drug. If a user ingests or injects into a vein 2 to 3 mg [a day] for 2 to 3 months, he becomes a chronic addict. The user becomes addicted because, after the excessively excited condition is over as the drug wears off, he becomes tired, depressed, lonely, bored, and wants to continue to use the drug.

As with narcotics and other antipsychotic drugs, the human body builds up resistance to amphetamines and the dosage has to be increased. Some addicts use 20 to 30 times the dosage a beginner uses.

Symptoms of an addict are that he becomes talkative, moves his body unnecessarily, and is easily irritated. His behavior is rough, he becomes fearful and uneasy. He loses ambition, is distracted, and becomes forgetful.

Acute addiction results from a sudden increase in dosage, 5 to 10 times the normal amount of 2 to 3 mg. An acute addict becomes ultrasensitive, shows curiosity about everything, and his interest keeps growing unnecessarily. Thus, he is easily distracted and feels uneasy because he tends to be carried away. This state is also called a "stimulated dream."

Excessive curiosity and interest develop to the point that an addict finds it difficult to see reality, and his hallucination increases until he believes his illusions actually exist. These illusions turn into hallucinations and delusions, eventually leading to serious crimes. No matter what the nature of addiction, chronic or acute, all addicts develop addictive psychoses.

Typical psychotic symptoms are divided into five categories. The first is the obsession that someone is trying to hurt the addict. The second is the worry that someone is following him. The third is a deep suspicion that his wife or sweetheart is having an affair with someone else. The fourth is that everyone is slandering him behind his back. The fifth is the suspicion that he is being closely watched by someone.

These delusions change external stimulations into all kinds of distracted visions, sounds and feelings. These groundless fears arouse hallucinations.

When amphetamine usage is interrupted, the addict is trapped by a strong desire to use the drug again and continues to feel unhappy. The withdrawal symptoms are different for each individual, but the addict may have headaches, diarrhea, insomnia, thirst, diminished desires, and depression.

Some specialists consider these after effects comparable to the withdrawal symptoms of narcotics addicts. When an amphetamine addict stops taking the drug, psychological symptoms such as delusions and hallucinations are drastically reduced with a week. But aftereffects such as irritability follow, apprehension and a split personality remain, and sometimes the effects are incurable.

Sometimes, the addict returns to normal physical health after he stops using the drug, but the symptoms recur a few months or a few years later.

Amphetamines Invade from Japan

The suzerain state of amphetamines that set its roots deep in Korea is Japan.

Methamphetamines were introduced into Japan in 1938. They were used as general stimulants because they eliminated tiredness and sleepiness, and increased working efficiency. During World War II, Japan recommended the use of the drugs for nightshift workers in munitions factories because the government was desperate for increased production. Military personnel mobilized for the war, and pilots for night flights were given these drugs. Also, there are records of the drugs have been forced on suicide squads toward the final phase of the war.

Amphetamines were part of military supplies in Japan. After the war, a stockpile of the drugs became available to the public. The drugs reached the civilian market uncontrolled. They became a convenience for those who had to work late at night--laborers, soldiers, and entertainers, as well as professionals who needed to concentrate.

Students who had to study late also loved the drugs. Gamblers and employees of salons, nightclubs, and cabarets enjoyed the drugs, which also infiltrated deep into red-light districts.

Up to this point, the drugs were used simply as stimulants. However, the horror of the drugs was revealed when members of organized gangs began to use them regularly. Due to unstable mental states, the gang members routinely used terror and destruction, and began to exhibit split personalities, delusions, and hallucinations. Crimes committed by addicts also increased rapidly.

In 1948, Japan belatedly classified methamphetamines as powerful drugs, and 2 years later passed a law to control stimulants. A law was enacted severely punishing unauthorized makers of the drugs by death or life imprisonment.

But the government could not root out the drugs. A year after the law took effect, 17,528 violators were arrested in 1951. This figure was eight times

the 2,208 violators of narcotics laws in the same year. The number of violators of the stimulant control law increased every year, peaking at 55,664 in 1954. The number of violators decreased after that, and remained below 800 a year from 1957 to 1969. In 1970, however, those arrested for violating the amphetamine control law increased to 1,618, and the number has multiplied every year by almost a factor of two, reaching over 20,000 last year. This number is more than 10 times the total number of those arrested for violations related to narcotics, opium, and marijuana.

Experts on the Japanese usage of amphetamines refer to the rampant period right after World War II as the first stimulant boom, and the present period as the second boom.

The drugs spread to Korea after the first boom. When the Japanese authorities began to impose capital punishment on the makers of the drugs, the Japanese makers sneaked into Korea. All amphetamines made in the quiet countryside or sparsely populated coastal areas of Korea were smuggled into Japan. The manufacturing skills were passed on to Koreans at this time. They worked very hard to make the drugs because they could sell everything they made to Japan, and law enforcement in Korea was lax.

In the late sixties, with the cooperation of Korean law enforcement agencies, Japan mobilized all of its enforcement authorities to intercept the drug traffic from Korea, the main source of the drugs.

Then, the drug makers began to develop the domestic market because it was difficult for them to smuggle the drugs out of Korea. The real threat posed by amphetamines was revealed in Korea after 1976. Narcotics, which were rampant after the Korean war, were followed by marijuana in the sixties, which was in turn replaced by amphetamines. Amphetamines took over and began to spread because they were easy to use, easy to hide, and effective.

Secret Language Used by Drug Dealers

Every secret organization or network has a secret language characteristic of it. The secret language used by amphetamine dealers is novel.

They want to be called "professors." A "professor" commands the highest respect among the drug network members; it is used for a drug manufacturer. Only those who can make high-quality crystalline amphetamines are called "professors." Many makers try to produce "crystals," but most of them end up producing "porridge," even after 5 to 6 years of training. In the final step of manufacturing amphetamines, the term "cooking porridge" is used when the maker fails to produce clean white crystals. The drug makers who merited the title "professor" in Korea were Sim Sang-ho and Kim Tong-il.

Ephedrine hydrochloride, which is the raw material, is called "rice" or "uncut rolls of cloth." The words were chosen because rice is our staple food, and uncut rolls of cloth are the basic supply material for the clothing industry. Palladium, an intermediate catalyst, is called "coffee." The word comes from the color of the chemical as well as the popularity of coffee in modern society.

The semifinished product in its liquid state is called "water," and amphetamines are called "powder" or "drugs." One unit or two units of merchandise means 1 kg or 2 kg of the powder, and one cup or two cups of soju [Korean gin] means 1 doe [0.477 U.S. gallon] or 2 doe of liquid amphetamines. A small sample package of 2 to 5 grams used before a drug deal is called a "face" or "kindling charcoal." The word "face" is used to represent performance and complexion, and the phrase "kindling charcoal" seems to have its root in the fact that small samples intercepted by the authorities often lead to a large-scale exposure of the drug factory and dealer network.

The man in charge of transporting the drugs is called an "A-frame carrier," a ship used exclusively for smuggling is called a "drugstore ship," and a hypodermic needle for injecting the drug is called a "stick."

A frequent drug user is called "Honam highway" or "Super-highway," in tribute to the many injection marks on his body, and an addict is called "crazy," slang for "mentally disturbed."

Although trust and loyalty are common virtues in the drug network, fakes exist.

Alum, which looks like amphetamines in color and texture, is often traded instead. Fake amphetamines are called "mutes."

Other nicknames are also colorful. Since amphetamines originated from Japan and smuggling is frequently carried out with Japan, the drug dealers use trading jargon such as "order," "line," and "buyer" as needed.

Urgent Need for Unified Law Enforcement

Amphetamines have earned nicknames such as "horror powder" and "white terror." The names of the drugs were unfamiliar until 1973, but the drugs are now wide spread and within easy reach. The number of drug users has increased drastically since 1979.

The horizontal and vertical organizations for the manufacture, distribution, and smuggling of amphetamines are known to be stronger than the organizations of those who smuggle non-drug merchandise. The drug-related organizations are made up of small units; if the head is caught, then the body and tail are invisible, and if the tail is exposed, then the body cannot be found.

The narcotics surveillance organizations responsible for the control of amphetamines are understaffed and underequipped. Each district prosecutor's office has one prosecutor who exclusively handles drug cases, and the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs has 27 narcotics surveillance agents. These agents handle drug-related surveillance for the entire country!

Although the total authorized manpower is 28 agents, there are only 27 now. Of these, four work at the headquarters on administrative duties, and only 23 are involved in investigative work. Six of the 23 agents are assigned to

Seoul, five to Pusan, and two each to Taegu, Taejon, Kwangju, Chonju, Uijeonbu, and Suwon, respectively.

Most of these agents are not experienced either. Only nine of them have worked more than 10 years, 13 have worked 5 to 10 years, and 5 have worked less than 2 years. Officials who are engaged in narcotics control claim that they need at least 100 experienced agents for effective surveillance. The prosecutors who exclusively handle drug cases are usually transferred in 1 or 2 years. Not only are the investigators undertrained but their manpower is also too low and ill-equipped. They don't even receive surveillance expenses.

We should highly appreciate the achievements of these agents under such adverse conditions, because they have successfully exposed many amphetamine plants, notorious drug dealers, and their networks in many areas.

The surveillance agents all agree that it is urgently necessary to set up a new branch to exclusively handle drug cases in the Supreme Prosecutor's Office. Such a branch could mobilize a nationwide investigation and accurately analyze intelligence and investigative information.

Every time joint investigation of an amphetamine case is carried out by the prosecutor's office, the police, and agents of the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs, competition develops among them. Often, the investigators from Pusan arrest drug dealers in Seoul, and agents from Seoul follow dealers in Pusan. All agree that this type of archaic investigation must be corrected. Although there have been cases where trips to other areas have been justified, there are also examples in which complete exposure of a drug network failed because of competition to gain the credit.

We must study the narcotics surveillance systems in Japan and the United States. In the United States, there is an exclusive narcotics surveillance agency under the Department of Justice. The agency has a sufficient number of agents and equipment comparable to that of the FBI.

Japan has exclusive narcotics surveillance agencies in the public prosecutor's office, the police, and the customs. The agents are competent, with highly developed investigative capabilities, and are known to be very effective in arresting drug dealers.

It is natural to believe that Korea must also unify its surveillance agencies and substantially increase its manpower and equipment.

The volume of investigative material collected by the narcotics prosecutor of the Pusan District Prosecutor's Office is enormous. His office is aware of 174 networks. If we assume five members to each network, the total comes to over 800 drug dealers. There are 80 amphetamine law violators who have been exposed, but their prosecution has been suspended because the authorities have not arrested them yet.

Also, there are many drug-related ex-convicts and persons with criminal tendencies who are likely to commit crimes. There are 867 persons in that

category: 627 of them are amphetamine-related criminals, 121 are marijuana-related cases, and 19 are due to narcotics-related violations. These are all data gathered after 1975. It is shocking to learn that 70 to 80 percent of all drug-related ex-convicts go back to the same routine again after they are released from prison.

Drug makers are imprisoned for a medium to long period, 3 and 1/2 to 7 years; distributors are imprisoned for 1 to 2 years, and retailers for 8 months to 1 year. The most serious offenders are those who try to beat the surveillance system after they have served prison terms.

Just as one gets addicted to amphetamines after casual usage, these offenders who cannot get out of their trap make our environment worse.

9829

CSO: 5300/4597

SRI LANKA

BRIEFS

GANJA PLANTS SEIZED--Trincomalee--Uppuveli police raided a chena at Mahadiulwewa (outside the colonisation scheme) and uprooted 5000 ganja plants cultivated in the chena. The raid was conducted by Sub Inspector Lewis, Police Constables Ratnayake, Kahandawala and Edirishinghe. One suspect was taken into custody in this connection. The ganja plants were also seized. [Text] [Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 4 Feb 82 p 5]

CSO: 5300/4923

THAILAND

STATUS, LOCATIONS OF KMT VILLAGES REPORTED

Bangkok SIAM MAI in Thai 13 Feb 82 pp 24-27

[Article: "The 93rd Division -- a Victim of Politics"]

[Excerpt] I went and met with officials of Forward BK04 in Chiang Rai Province in order to obtain detailed information concerning the activities that they are responsible for, especially concerning the Chinese nationalist forces, who are known as the 93rd Division and who are living in the north along the Thai-Burmese border.

The answer that I received from one official stationed there who is the head of a center was that he could not disclose such information because it is secret. "People at my level have only one duty and that is to follow orders and act in accord with the policies. It is not my duty to provide information. If you want to obtain information, you must go to the main center of KB04 in Chiang Mai Province."

This is the answer that we usually get from officials in the field who carry out the work.

I did not wait but quickly rented a motorcycle and went up Doi Salong, which is the home of the former Chinese nationalist soldiers, or 93rd Division, in order to find out the facts.

From Chiang Rai, I took the road that goes to Mae Sai District. After 13 kilometers, I came to Mae Chan District. At the junction at the Hill Tribes Development Center, which is subordinate to the Department of Public Welfare, Ministry of Interior, I started climbing into the mountains. The road here is hard laterite. At the beginning of the road up the mountain, I met a pickup truck filled with local police officials, who were on guard duty. On the side of the road was the shell of a car that Thai soldiers had burned last week. The police warned me to be careful.

The motorcycle I was riding wound up the side of the mountain, finally reaching the summit and then continuing on. I had to get off and walk the motorcycle in places where the road was too steep because the engine was too weak. I passed a Yao village. In the wake of the Ban Hin Taek affair, Shan soldiers of

Khun Sa have been robbing village vehicles and so villagers are still afraid. Some of them warned me that I should not risk travelling there.

- After going 26 kilometers, I reached the Iko junction, which is at least 1,000 meters above sea level. From this junction, you can go either to Ban Hin Taek or to Doi Mae Salong; the distance to both is the same, 13 kilometers. Not far from the Iko junction, I met an old man whose face was black and whose body was caked with dried blood. He told me that he had been robbed at Ban Iko Ban Klang. He had been hit in the head with the butt of a rifle and his hand had been cut. This man told us all this haltingly using both Thai and Iko before we took him to the head of the road.

Doi Mae Salong, the Last Secure Place

The 93rd Division and the 193rd Division are things of the past. Mae Salong Village, or Santikhiri Village as government officials call it, is under the control of forward Supreme Command Headquarters and National Security Command Headquarters, which has a unit called BK04 that is responsible for everything concerning these former nationalist Chinese soldiers and for things in 13 other villages in Chiang Rai and Mae Hong Son provinces.

Suppressing Communist Terrorists In Return for Thai Citizenship

- Concerning allowing these former nationalist Chinese soldiers to live in Thailand as stipulated by government officials through the activities of BK04, there was something behind this. These forces were allowed to live in areas that were under the influence of the communist terrorists, that is, at Ban Phatang on Doi Phamon and at Ban Mae Ap on Doi Luang in Chiang Mai Province. BK04 used these nationalist Chinese soldiers to fight the communist terrorists. They were finally able to settle down in these villages on 27 March 1974.

- The result of using these former KMT soldiers was the destruction of several secure bases of the CPT. But at least 600 of these KMT soldiers were killed and many others were wounded. This was confirmed by General Kriangsak Chamanan during an interview he gave to the newspaper SIAM MAI.

At present, these former KMT soldiers have been given permission to build houses in 13 villages: Ban Pa Paek and Ban Hua Lang in Mae Hong Son Province; Ban Muang Haeng, Ban Pieny Luang, Ban Kae Noi and Ban Muang Na in Chiang Dao District and Ban Tham Ngop, Ban Sanmakokwan, Ban Luang and Ban Muang Ngam in Fang District in Chiang Mai Province; Ban Doi Mae Salong in Mae Chan District, Ban Chiang Saen in Chiang Saen District and Ban Phatang in Chiang Khong District in Chiang Rai Province.

A policy of waging war by making use of minority people who want Thai citizenship is a common matter for a few corrupt officials. Using these KMT soldiers and hill tribesmen to guard road construction in the north and starting the Hill 741 campaign in Phu Luang in Loei Province in January 1979 and, most recently, the Phamuang Phadetsuk campaign at the beginning of 1981 at

Phaya in the Khao Kho area has resulted in the deaths of many of these men. Those who were wounded had to be taken back and treated in accord with their means at the places where government officials had given them permission to live, that is, at Doi Mae Salong in Chiang Rai Province and at Tham Ngop in Chiang Mai Province.

These KMT soldiers had been disarmed and had not undergone combat training for a long time. Concerning this matter, General Kriangsak stated in an interview with SIAM MAI that "in principle, I could not use these people to fight. It was my duty to defuse the situation and allow them to lead a normal and peaceful life. As for my policy, I never used the KMT forces to fight anyone. I do not know why these people were allowed to settle down at Doi Ya and Khao Kho last year."

As for granting Thai citizenship to these former KMT soldiers, this was done in accord with regulations stipulated by the Ministry of Defense and the Ministry of Interior.

Santikhiri and Doi Mae Salong

At present, [the place where] one element of the 93rd Division [is located] has been transformed into a Thai village. Government officials have changed its name and now call it Santikhiri Village. It is located on Doi Mae Salong on 90,000 rai of land. The village has electricity that is generated by a power generator that the people in the village all contributed money for. here is also a factory for curing tea leaves. The 314 households here all work together in cultivating tea and cold-weather crops as National Security Command Headquarters and BK04 have encouraged them to do.

Most of their houses are single story dwellings made either of wood or woven bamboo. The houses are arranged in a line along both sides of the road, which curves along following the mountain ridges. Above the village in the mountains to the west is the cemetery where General Tuan Shih-Wen, the former leader of these MKT soldiers who died only last year, is buried. A large mausoleum is being built on the mountain ridge to the north. One area has been improved and made into a large helicopter landing pad. There are sheds for starting the tea cuttings provided by National Security Command Headquarters. And there are the Kriangsak and Keng Chin houses. The Kriangsak house stands out prominently.

Looking down, you can see the entire village. You can see the large soccer field of the Santikhiri School, a private school whose curriculum has been approved by the Ministry of Education. The school teaches mandarin Chinese. Its income is derived from the tuition it charges the young students who come from all around. It collects a large sum of money each term and this money is used to help support the village. The surrounding area has bunkers and a military camp, although little training is conducted. You mostly see [the men] sitting around smoking tobacco using opium pipes. The weapons and uniforms are old.

The students at the Santikhiri School study Chinese using Taiwanese curriculum. Their textbooks are also from Taiwan. When they graduate they can continue their studies in Taiwan by getting themselves arrested by the Chiang Rai police, going to court and pretending to be illegal aliens and having themselves deported to Taiwan.

To the south of the village is a settlement for disabled soldiers who are being given training in handicraft work based on the handicraft manuals that people in the village studied in Taiwan.

Not having Santikhiri become another Ban Hin Taek seems to be the hope of everyone there.

11943

CSO: 5300/5647

THAILAND

KMT COMMANDER SAYS 93RD DIVISION HARBORS KHUN SA REFUGEES

Bangkok SIAM MAI in Thai 13 Feb 82 pp 28, 29

[Interview with General Lui E-Thien, or Mr Arun Charoenthangchanraya, the commander of the refugee KMT forces (93rd Division) at his home at Doi Mae Salong; date not specified]

[Text] [Question] Are you aware that there have been stories about the refugee KMT forces, or 93rd Division, in the newspapers recently?

[Answer] There have been unfavorable reports and what has been written is wrong and not in accord with the facts. If the government echoes these newspaper stories, it will show that this government is not good and that it cannot distinguish between good and bad. What has been written [tries to] show that the government's [attempt] to suppress Khun Sa was the wrong thing to do. But I do not think that this is correct. The government is not stupid as they have said. Before it began this operation, the government undoubtedly analyzed things and implemented things carefully. If this is not the case, the government will probably not be able to survive. We have lived here for more than 20 years. We have lived at Doi Mae Salong. The government knows that we are here. It knows what we do. We have never done anything that is illegal. Why should we be suppressed and driven out?

[Question] This suppression operation against the forces of Khun Sa at Ban Hin Taek has scattered his forces. They may later join together again to stage an attack on Ban Mae Salong to get supplies.

[Answer] Concerning this, we cannot say for sure whether such an event will take place or not. We can only try to understand that this action by the government to suppress Khun Sa is probably a correct policy. But we do not know whether or not we will be the scapegoat and be attacked someday. We have not received any orders from higher authorities about what to do. As for the villagers who fled from Ban Hin Taek and who are living here, we have given them permission [to stay here] but they are not soldiers. If soldiers of Khun Sa come here, regardless of whether they come as friends or as enemies, we will have them surrender their weapons first. Some of the villagers from Ban Hin Taek who came here have already left.

[Question] At present, are you afraid that what happened to Khun Sa will happen to you?

[Answer] We have never thought that because we are certain that, regardless of the nationality, the government will not encourage or maintain anything that is illegal or try to get rid of what is good. We do not believe that this is the case. We believe that if a government drives out good people, that government will not survive. We have never been worried. Everything that we have done has been in accord with what the government has stipulated.

[Question] Living here, are there any government policies that you must follow?

[Answer] The government ordered us to cultivate tea and engage in agriculture. We have done this with good results. You can walk around and see for yourself. The government announced that Doi Mae Salong was to be a tourist spot and we were very pleased with this. Besides this, we must grow cold-weather fruits. These are the policies that we must follow. Previously, we destroyed the forests to grow crops. When we can plant trees, we plant cold-weather trees instead.

[Question] Is it true that the government has given the villagers of Mae Salong much money each year to help them?

[Answer] As for budgets, in 1973 the only thing we received from the government was tea seed. The next year, the government saw that providing only tea seed made things too difficult for us and so it sent some agricultural equipment too. If we had had to live on the budget provided by the government, we would have starved. We make an income from selling our agricultural produce. As for BK04, which the government established in order to control us in carrying on communist suppression activities, we have received only a limited number of weapons from this unit. They have not given us any money. Since we were allowed to come and live here, we have helped preserve the peace and helped to keep the communist terrorists out of the area. As for carrying on communist terrorist suppression operations, each time we have received an order to go engage in such operations, we have gone empty-handed. The government has provided the weapons and then we have returned.

[Question] At present, do you still have troops and weapons and [if so] where did your weapons come from?

[Answer] At present, we do not have any weapons. We do not have any personal weapons. Personal weapons must be reported. If there was a real fight, we have only enough to maintain peace. As for our soldiers, we have only a few volunteers. We have not trained replacements. Soon, all of us here will be Thais. As for having us serve as government soldiers, [the government] will arrange things. We are constantly ready for orders.

[Question] Would you please tell me about the government having you carry on communist terrorist suppression activities?

[Answer] We began carrying on suppression operations against the communist terrorists in 1970. This is a secret matter of the government; I cannot tell you about this. In 1981, we were ordered to carry on suppression operations at Khao Kho. We took a force of 600 men and finally won.

[Question] I would like to ask about that battle. How many men were lost?

[Answer] As for the number killed or wounded, losses were not that great. But as for saying that casualties were light, I would like to invite you to go visit our rehabilitation center for disabled soldiers. Those people missing arms and legs were taken there for treatment. We provide treatment within the limits of our capabilities; we do not receive money from anywhere. You can visit there.

[Question] It is said that the 93rd Division is a private army that is supported by General Kriangsak. Is there any truth to this?

[Answer] We trusted Prime Minister Kriangsak because he was the person who came and implemented things. He was a government official. He made plans to provide us with a place to live. He worked for the benefit of the nation and not himself. As for our being the private army of General Kriangsak, that is the talk of the opposition and it has been harmful to all. As for us engaging in communist terrorist suppression operations, we were not ordered to do this by Prime Minister Kriangsak; we were ordered by Prime Minister Prem. Why don't people say that we are the private force of Prime Minister Prem? At Mae Salong, we have only one duty and that is to act in accord with the wishes of the government. We obeyed both Prime Minister Prem and Prime Minister Kriangsak and will obey anyone who forms a government. Even though General Kriangsak is no longer prime minister, regardless of nationality, it is our private feeling that we must respect those who have seniority. This is a common thing.

[Question] I would like to know whether or not you still have contact with the Taiwan government now. Also, it has been said that Khun Sa and you are all part of the same group. Is this true?

[Answer] We have no contact with Taiwan. We are like Thais in general. Our situation is not very different from yours. Almost all of us have received Thai citizenship. We should forget about what is past. It is a very bitter and painful past. That era has passed and should not be resurrected. As for Khun Sa, we know only that he comes from the Shan states in Burma. As for us, we have a saying that says that "people who have never lost their country do not know how important the country is."

[Question] I would like to know about your taking over as leader in place of General Tuan Shih-wen.

[Answer] General [Tuan] died at the end of 1980. I was his assistant and so I was asked to take over his duties. Actually, I asked to be relieved of this duty. I did not want to become involved. But the director of BK04 came and talked with me for several days, asking me to take this position, and so I agreed.

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KRIANGSAK INTERVIEWED ON RELATIONSHIP WITH KMT, ANTI-SUA OPERATIONS

Bangkok SIAM MAI in Thai 13 Feb 82 pp 30-35

[Interview with General Kriangsak Chamanana; date and place not specified]

[Excerpt] [Question] Why did the 93rd Division build you a house?

[Answer] They did this in remembrance of the things that I did to help them have jobs and not have to starve. But that is not my house. If it was really my house, why would I put up a crazy sign like that? They put up the sign "Kriangsak house" in remembrance of the good things I did. I never told them to build that house, and I have stayed there only once a long time ago when I was a general. Look! They wrote "Kriangsak House," not "Kriangsak's house." They did this on their own out of affection for me. They wrote "Kriangsak House" without telling me. When I found out and asked them not to do this, they insisted. Concerning the reports to the effect that I have had illegal dealings with this minority group, I don't understand how they have created such a situation. They should not destroy those who have good intentions toward the country. And I really don't understand why the people are trying to find something to destroy me with.

[Question] In 1977, did Lester Wolff meet with Khun Sa at Phathaya?

[Answer] He went to Burma on his own. I learned about this; I was not informed beforehand. He came here through the embassy and Ministry of Foreign Affairs and then went straight to Supreme Command Headquarters. I was the official who received him and so we exchanged ideas. Concerning how he contacted Khun Sa, I do not know if he did this by letter or directly. It was during this period that newspaper stories to the effect that I was cooperating with Khun Sa began to appear. This was during a period of great political change and political turmoil. But why did they have to involve me too! Concerning this mixing of politics with the preservation of security in order to attack me, this was dangerous for the country; it was not good for society or the country. People had better not use politics or private matters for their own interests and then attack me and try to make me the scapegoat.

What is this? Why are people afraid of me? I took the political path in order to help build things. I became involved in politics because I felt I could still be of service to the country since I am still healthy. The

country is facing difficulties, people are poor and the people are having problems; I understand all these things. Since I have the capabilities to help the country, do you want me to sit by idly? I have entered politics because I recognize my responsibility as a Thai. We must not involve politics in the good acts that the military has been performing for a very long time. I am not the only one who felt sad; others subordinate to me and even people in the army felt sad. After we had half finished something according to our orders, someone would criticize us. How could this help but make others disappointed in national defense. We were constantly told that we were wrong even though we were trying to carry out our duties as government officials diligently and honestly. Should we allow others to destroy our morale? I will not deny the things that have been said about me. The newspapers might not dare to print such things again. But if they do dare to print that Kriangsak cooperated with Khun Sa, I will beat them. Wait and see. I will put up a fight. (Laughs) This has misled the people.

[Question] But the newspapers have only written stories based on information provided them by government sources.

[Answer] That is exactly why I have said that personal political [matters] must not be mixed up with intentions in performing duties concerning national security. If this is used to make attacks, harm will be done. Don't you feel that this will be bad for the country? If you create a situation and then destroy things and use various political points to make attacks, this is very dangerous. It leads to a loss of unity and divergence in thinking. I am now sick and tired of reporters befuddling the people. As a newspaper reporter, you must go search for the truth and then tell the people the truth. Do not just go and interview various people and print what they say. You must go and see for yourself. I would like BK04, which is responsible, or forward BK04, to give the facts to the people instead of having you print information obtained from various people who don't know everything and who have been involved only 1 year or 6 months as compared with 20 years. I do not think this benefits the people. The people will become confused. One person says that they must be suppressed completely while another says that there must be discussions and that a colonel should be sent to discuss things. Some say that he [Khun Sa] should be allowed to return while others say that he must be suppressed. There is great confusion.

[Question] In 1971, after the minority group matter was settled in various places, there were reports that the king made a visit. Is this true?

[Answer] I do not know. You must find this out for yourself. That is, concerning those who enter the country and ask for royal protection, generally, the king shows great humanitarian kindness to all. Thus, our country has survived. We cannot go and kill the children.

[Question] But this time very strong action was taken even though Ban Hin Taek was a Thai village. Thai weapons were used to kill Thais at Ban Hin Taek. What are your views about this?

[Answer] If Khun Sa lived there I do not think this action was too strong. If khun Sa and his soldiers die, things will quiet down. At the international level it is said that Khun Sa has a price on his head of 500,000 baht. And if Khun Sa is, as the officials say, a great threat to the people of the world, money should be found in a proper way. The fight is his fight.

[Question] Do you or do you not agree with this method of suppression?

[Answer] I agree if Khun Sa and his forces were there. But I do not know whether Khun Sa was there then or not. But if it is learned that children were killed, it is up to those responsible to find out how many died. It must be learned whether old people died by grenades, how the fighting took place and how people died. I do not know the details. People died from grenades. I think grenades were thrown on the school roof. Their villages have constantly provided information about the communists and about narcotics trafficking. And I myself have told the minister of foreign affairs.

Even though I am just a citizen, when I learn where opium is being produced I inform [officials], even Phao Sarasin. You can go and ask. I am constantly trying to verify the information that I receive in order to control narcotics. When I was in office, little was suppressed but now arrests are being made. I was the first one to burn heroin and we used helicopters from the United States to carry on suppression operations. I carried on suppression operations because I felt that this was Thailand's duty to the people of the world and for world justice. One unit was engaged in a suppression drive and mistakenly entered Burma. Burma arrested them and we had to negotiate 3 or 4 days for their release. I carried on suppression resolutely and so how could it be that I was engaged in the trade myself! I will let the people be the judge. But be fair. Do not involve politics and destroy people who take action. This is not correct.

[Question] Do you think this is the plan of the opposition?

[Answer] I think so. Why did this take place just now? And why was I implicated? My duties do not concern Khun Sa at all. This matter is the responsibility of the Ministry of Interior or Police Department officials who are in control of things. So, take control!

[Question] What is the reason that they have created a major incident?

[Answer] I do not know who has created a political incident to malign me. People who involve politics in security matters are not thinking about the security of the nation.

[Question] In view of this attack, in the future, will the problem grow even larger and become a border problem? That is, will this induce enemies to enter the country like this?

[Answer] I do not think such will be the case. It is not a major problem. The people should not become alarmed. We must look at their capabilities. We must figure out what they will do and if they are making threats. You can think about this yourself. How large are the Shan forces? What are their capabilities. Do we have the capabilities to defend ourselves? We must solve this problem in stages. If it cannot be solved in stage one, we must solve it in stage two. But I do not want the operations to achieve only this. Lives, property and people's taxes had to be spent. If they do not leave, the police there must take action.

Now, things are exactly opposite the problem of opium suppression. We have suppressed opium. Refugees have entered and requested royal protection and we have people who are watching them. When they do something wrong, action must be taken. If we do something in order to achieve some goal and it is not necessary to fight, we should wait before fighting. Our economy is in trouble now. Rice and other things cannot be sold. The people do not have food to eat and food prices are rising every day. If we can reach an agreement peacefully, this is what should be done.

[Question] Some high-ranking military officers say that Khun Sa plans to seize state power. Is there any truth to this?

[Answer] This is absolute nonsense. That is all that can be said. What is his strength? What weapons does he have? His ammunition would be gone in 2 or 3 days. What would he do then? We have many arsenals. As for state power, we have 200,000 to 300,000 men. He has 3,000 with which to seize power. (Laughs) Such talk has generated disbelief and confusion among the people. [People] talk about things that cannot happen and then involve politics. They use your group's radios and newspapers to make attacks and involve politics. If this continues, no one will believe anything and things will not seem important. I will tell you; if people continue to talk in an unprincipled way and do not have any reasons to give, saying that this person will suppress that person, this will destroy state power. This person wants to negotiate; that one want to carry on suppression operations. What will the first one do? They try to create an image and play politics. If this continues, later on no one will believe anything the government or the mass media says. No one will believe the radio reports. There will be trouble if the people stop believing what is said.

[Question] If politics and national security are mixed, what will the result be?

[Answer] People will not want to work. When they do something, they get blamed. Ten years later they get blamed again even though they followed the policies. And using politics like this will lead to a lose of unity, won't it? And won't the political problems be harmful to the interests of the country and ruin people and assets? Won't these improperly destroy things? If decisions are made in order to defend the country and if we discuss political matters and uphold the interests of the country, this is what it means to preserve the nation's security and not use this and that in order to maintain your own political interests.

[Question] You mean private political [interests] and not public political [interests]?

[Answer] I do not know. This is a matter of the nation's interests. This is a matter you can discuss. Do not make me criticize anyone. I would like to make the country safe and relieve the people of their problems; these are my intentions.

[Question] If such a situation continues, when do you think the limit will be reached?

[Answer] I do not think people should be afraid. The stories about Khun Sa have been blown up all out of proportion. Khun Sa has very little. How strong are his forces? How many weapons does he have. How much ammunition does he have? Never mind. We made him into a giant and this has frightened the people. Why did we create a demon? Why did people do this?

[Question] When you were in office, what was the policy of the United States toward the narcotics problem and the minority groups problem?

[Answer] We had to cooperate with the United States. We had to cooperate with the entire world. We had to cooperate with the United Nations. I acted resolutely during that period. This may have been because we were able to make few arrests. This is like last year when we had the problem with pirates; we could not catch them. Of 200 people, we arrested only two or three. This is because we did not have the means [to catch] the pirates. And the opium problem is even bigger. However, it is my basic belief that we must be independent in our policies. We do not have to be afraid of anything. If something goes against the common interests of the state and [others] try to force Thailand to take responsibility with its lives and property, this is not just.

You must understand that Thailand is not engaged in growing poppies. The attempt to insist that we are an opium producing country is not correct. The problem is in the Golden Triangle. What can a small country like Thailand do? This is an international problem. Why don't we solve it together? Thailand does not have to lose its reputation and be the scapegoat. They cannot do anything either but they go around blaming others.

[Question] As the leader of the opposition party, what is your view on how the government is doing in governing the country?

[Answer] The country is experiencing many problems. There is the problem of the various refugee groups who wander around. This is a very dangerous matter. The major problems must be solved first. They must not be allowed to spread. This would endanger security. They must be controlled. There are many problems of various sorts. Last year, we were unable to sell 3 million tons of rice. This year, there is another 4 million tons that cannot be sold, for a total of 7 million tons. What can be done? When rice cannot be sold, who has trouble? And who will solve this problem? As for matters abroad

we should not destroy our markets. We must quickly find a way to help the people because they cannot wait much longer. Why does our rice have to be sent to Singapore before it can be sold? Have other countries helped us by not competing? They have other sources of income. Or have they flooded the markets? And why have we been told that we do not have to grow a second rice crop anymore? How can people sit by idly? People have to eat. What will people do if they are not allowed to grow a second rice crop until the 7 million tons is disposed of? I think this is very stupid.

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EDITORIAL DOUBTS EFFECTIVENESS OF ANTI-SUA OPERATIONS

Bangkok PATINYA in Thai 15 Feb 82 p 1

[Editorial: "The Problem of Khun Sa and 'Taking the Bull by the Horns'"]

[Text] At a time when there were reports of fierce conflicts and splits among the parties that supported the government, news of the suppression operation against Khun Sa, which was a major story, drew the attention of the people away from the conflicts mentioned above. But at the same time, the news about Khun Sa has led people to ask: Since Khun Sa is only a member of a minority group that has come and settled down in Thailand, why has he been able to gain such great influence and why has he been able to assemble forces create a state within a state and engage in drug trafficking for such a long time?

This group began to gain influence because of the [government's] policy of using this group as a buffer to guard the Thai border in the north. This benefited national defense somewhat as long as these people did not think about becoming Thailand's enemy. But in return for this, we had to give up something. We had to allow this group to engage in the illegal activities mentioned above. And what is more, some influential people in our country became involved in these great profits. This led to illegal activities increasing even more. At the same time, this made it possible for the influential people behind this to create a strong political base that could affect the position of the government.

On one hand, it looks like this lightning-like strike against Khun Sa has achieved good results, like "bringing down a whole flock of birds with one round." That is, it has allowed the government to reduce the influence of a man who was shaking the government. The government has gained the confidence of the people and of foreigners, who now believe that the government is resolved to solve the narcotics problem and maintain its sovereignty. Besides this, this has given those who were directly responsible for this suppression operation an opportunity to display the results of their activities so that they can step up into more important positions later on. But if we look at this from another angle, we can see that this suppression operation against Khun Sa has created the additional problem of a prolonged war along the northern border in addition to the Kampuchean border problem in the east and

the bandit terrorist and Malaysian communist guerrilla problems in the south. This is because simply destroying Ban Hin Taek did not solve the problem completely. Khun Sa can hide in Burma and return and cause more destruction. We will thus be forced to spend money and lose men with no end in sight. There is little hope that Burma will help suppress him since that area is located far away from Burma's center of state power. This would make it necessary for Burma to spend a lot on suppression operations. If Burma remains indifferent in order to gain bargaining power with Thailand, it will be even more difficult to solve this problem. This is something that we will have to weigh in order to achieve good results both in the short term and in the long term. Or, this action against Khun Sa may have been so strong that it will have a serious effect on the position of the influential people and this may hasten the split.

"Taking the bull by the horns" shows bravery but every time this is done, the person "grabbing the horns" gets hurt. We believe that, concerning solving problems that have been growing for a long time and that are no longer confined to the border area, as in the case of Khun Sa, there should be another way that is more cautious and less violent. We also believe that a commanding general who can defeat the enemy or get them to withdraw without having to fire a single shot or lose one drop of blood will have won a real victory. Thus, problems such as the Khun Sa case must be considered in great detail and very carefully.

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BAN HIN TAEK RAID SAID TO BENEFIT NON-THAI INTERESTS

Bangkok PATINYA in Thai 15 Feb 82 pp 7-12

[Article: "The Collapse of Khun Sa, Who Benefits?"]

[Text] Ever since the end of last month, it can be said that the news of the lightning-like operation of the border patrol police, an operation in which they attacked and forced the forces of Khun Sa, or Chang Si Fu, out of Thailand, which took place at Ban Hin Taek in Mae Chan District, Chiang Rai Province, on 21 January has generated great interest among the people in general. As for the details of the operation, little needs to be added here. However, one thing that is of interest and that few people know anything about is why this clash took place. Who gained and who lost what this time? And what will be the role of the minority groups who are living all along the border? And how will this affect Thailand in the future? These are all questions that are waiting to be answered and that are waiting to be solved quickly.

The movement to Topple Khun Sa

Khun Sa, or Chang Si Fu, is generally known to the people of the world for two things: As the leader of a national liberation force that is known as the Shan United Army, or SUA. This is just one of many national liberation groups in Burma. On another front, Khun Sa is known as an international narcotics kingpin. "The Shan United Army, under the leadership of Chang Si Fu, controls approximately 70 percent of the heroin refining in the Golden Triangle." Joseph Linnaman, the U.S. assistant secretary of state, made this statement to a senate subcommittee last November. It seems that Khun Sa is better known throughout the world for his narcotics activities than he is for his national liberation efforts. Even though Khun Sa once said in an interview that the reason he engages in heroin trafficking is to earn money with which to purchase weapons and war materials and support his men, people around the world are skeptical of this.

The narcotics problem is a problem that has constantly caused worry for the United States. General Prem showed a great awareness of this fact when he said that showing our sincerity by suppressing the opium production points and heroin traffickers in Thailand is a good factor that will help Thailand receive much sympathy, financial support and weapons from the United States. Thus, prior to General Prem's visit to the United States during the period

3-10 October last year, the news of a 500,000 baht reward for the capture of the opium kingpin, or Khun Sa, was released at the beginning of August for all the world to know. Then on 10 August 1981, two heroin production points in Mae Chan District, Chiang Rai Province, that were near Ban Hin Taek were attacked and destroyed by Region 3 border patrol police. It cannot be denied that this played a part in helping General Prem's visit to the United States achieve very satisfactory results. And the outcome of these talks made it necessary for Thailand to stipulate a policy of taking even more serious measures in narcotics suppression. This was one reason why General Prem and his entourage, including Police Major General Phao Sarasin, the secretary-general of the ONCB, later had to visit Burma. The major purpose of this trip was to find a way to suppress narcotics in this region.

Thus, successive operations to topple Khun Sa took place both by Thai officials directly and by others. On 7 October 1981, irregulars from the Pakthongchai camp in Korat were sent to carry out an operation in Khun Sa's area of influence. The objective was to wipe out an opium caravan and capture Khun Sa. But this operation failed completely. "There was an intelligence failure that should not have happened. News of our operation was revealed to Khun Sa beforehand," stated one news source at the Pakthongchai camp to PATINYA after that debacle. Thus, the military, particularly Major General Chawalit Yongchaiyut, sought a new way to suppress Khun Sa's influence. They tried to pressure forces of the border patrol police, which has direct responsibility in this area, to carry on an operation to destroy the poppy fields in various areas covering 10 villages. Fifteen December 1981 was set as the date to begin the operation, but this border patrol police operation was cancelled. "This could not be carried out. Four of these 10 villages were involved in development promotion and crop cultivation programs in accord with a royal decree. If we had carried on a suppression operation there, this would have had an undesirable effect," stated a high-ranking police official from the Commissioner's Office of the Border Patrol Police to PATINYA. At the same time, other minority groups and narcotics traffickers were also carrying on operations to crush Khun Sa. At the beginning of December, a group of Red Lahus under the leadership of Mr E Bi, a group which has very close ties with the White Flag Burmese Communist Party (Chinese faction), carried out an attack and destroyed two of Khun Sa's heroin refineries. Concerning this clash, Khun Sa charged that Thailand was secretly involved in this too. "We did not provide help to the Red Lahus. We only told Mr E Bi that if he captured Khun Sa, we would help see to it that he was paid the reward. We certainly did not provide any support as far as weapons or men are concerned," stated a news source close to these circles to PATINYA. However, news of the impending attack by Red Lahus reached Khun Sa ahead of time and so the plan to capture him failed again. Besides this, on 10 December, forces of Khun Sa were attacked because of failing to pay the opium caravan transit tax. They were attacked by a subordinate of Lao Su, or Siri Sirikun, a person who is well known as the opium godfather who miraculously escaped from a Thai prison, fled to Laos and cooperated with the Lao government in producing narcotics and distributing them throughout the world. In this clash, a joint force made up of soldiers from the 93rd Division and Lahus from Ja Eu's

group attacked Khun Sa too since RPG rounds had mysteriously fallen on a village belonging to this Lahu group. Besides this, several days prior to the border patrol police attack on Ban Hin Taek, a Thai intelligence unit received information that Khun Sa had also had a fight with a Lawa group.

The Ban Hin Taek Operation

Following these continuous operations, there was pressure on Thailand from abroad to finish the campaign against Khun Sa. This can be seen from the recent visits to Thailand by U.S. congressmen and the 18-23 January visit by the deputy secretary-general of the United Nations. This led to Thailand's stipulating the Ban Hin Taek operation. On 14-16 January, Air Chief Marshal Sitthi Sawetsila made a trip to Burma and requested their cooperation. At the same time, Police Lieutenant General Pranet Ritthirucha, the deputy director-general of the Police Department, was called in by General Prem and informed of this plan by Major General Chawalit Yongchaiyut, the director of the Directorate of Operations. Based on the past failures, this Ban Hin Taek operation was kept top secret. Even the director-general of the Police Department was informed of this operation only 24 hours in advance, and the commissioner of the border patrol police learned of this operation only after it was completed. "Border patrol police from Region 6 had to be used because the forces of the Region 5 border patrol police, who are responsible for this area, were insufficient because of having to go guard the king." This statement was issued by the Police Department. But it is well known that this was done to prevent any leaks about this plan since there were still close ties between the border patrol police in this area and Khun Sa's forces. Besides the great pressure from abroad, another thing that made government officials decide to carry out this operation at this time was that "beginning in the middle of January, the poppies begin to mature and the opium can be extracted. If Khun Sa can be destroyed, opium extraction and the amount of opium produced in the Golden Triangle will definitely be affected," stated an ONCB official to PATINYA.

Why Khun Sa?

It is known that other minority group forces besides Khun Sa's forces have entered Thailand and that he is not the only one involved in narcotics trafficking. Thus, something that has caused great dismay is why Khun Sa alone was targeted for destruction. "Take the 93rd Division for example. We cannot do anything to them because of an agreement that Thailand made long ago with the United States and the Taiwan government. It was agreed that any KMT soldier from the 93rd Division who did not want to return to Taiwan would be allowed to live in Thailand at Doi Mae Salong and at Ban Phangopngai. Furthermore, all of them now hold Thai citizenship. Thai officials thus hold that the 93rd Division no longer exists," stated a military official to PATINYA. But if this is looked at in greater detail, another reason why Thailand has not taken action against the 93rd Division is because the benefits that Thailand has gained from the 93rd Division are too great to be thrown away. One task of the 93rd Division at present is to help construct and guard

the construction of various strategic roads that cut through areas infiltrated by the communist terrorists. Besides this, the 93rd Division regularly makes attacks on the secure bases of the communist terrorists. "The 93rd Division has provided much help in suppressing the communist terrorists. At first, they (the 93rd Division) had a strength of 6,000 men. But more than 1,000 have been killed in action against the communist terrorists. Our government has paid each of them 10,000 baht to help them," said General Kriangsak, the former prime minister, to reporters recently. Another strategic matter is that Thailand feels that the 93rd Division can greatly help control the spread of communist influence in Thailand. At present, the 93rd Division has stationed forces along the Thai border all the way north to where the borders of Burma and China converge. But as for opium, the 93rd Division is deeply involved in this. "Where do they get the money to support themselves if they are not involved in the opium trade? They earn around 10 million baht a year just from collecting transit taxes from the opium caravans," said a news source who has long been involved with matters in this area to PATINYA. Concerning the other minority groups, he added that "as for the group under General Bo Miya, nothing needs to be said. It should already be known whom he has connections with. He knows many people with the rank of director-general and higher. No one would dare to touch him." Besides this, Khun Sa is well known as a narcotics kingpin whom the United States would very much like to destroy and he has recently begun to have increased relations with the Red Flag Burmese Communist Party (the Soviet faction). These are the things that have led to the attacks being focused on Khun Sa.

Who Has Benefited?

The Ban Hin Taek operation has had a great effect on many sides. We now want to discuss things generally. That is:

Burma: Burma is the one that has benefited directly from the operation carried out by the border patrol police. Burma has benefited greatly because the national liberation forces of the various minority groups have caused great worry for Burma for many years. And Burma's suppression operations have not achieved the results desired. This is a result of Burma's domestic economic situation, which is not very secure. Thus, in throwing in forces to suppress the national liberation forces, there have been problems concerning support. Even though the Burmese government has tried to send out forces to suppress them, it has encountered shortages of weapons and war materials. "Most of the weapons now in use by Burmese [forces] are out-dated weapons that the Soviet Union no longer uses and that it has therefore sent to Burma. The little modern equipment that they do have consists of helicopters sent by the United States to suppress narcotics. But Burma has used them for combat. But they have very few," said an officer from Supreme Command Headquarters to PATINYA. Besides this, another great problem is the terrain. Most of the terrain here is thick forest and high mountains. And what is important, the Salween River is an obstacle. Thus, the operations conducted by Burmese forces have been restricted to such a limited area that it is said

that the "Burmese government controls only the area up to the Salaween River. The area from across the river to the border belongs to the national liberation groups."

In short, this suppression operation carried out by Thailand amounts to helping Burma suppress the minority groups that live along the border without Burma having to exert any effort. Another thing that is important is that the minority groups that are living along the border will no longer be certain about Thailand's attitude. This will put a stop to minority groups fleeing into Thailand, which is something that they have constantly done at critical times. In addition, the actions carried out against Burmese forces should decrease greatly.

The United States: "The amount of heroin on world markets will decrease by at least 50 percent," said Police Major General Phao Sarasin to reporters. This should make the United States, which has been very worried about the spread of narcotics there, feel much better. Thus, this suppression operation carried out by Thailand is equivalent to helping the United States reduce the size of its narcotics problem. But how great the results are depends on whether or not there is continued interest in really suppressing [narcotics] since Khun Sa's group is only one of the groups that is engaged in narcotics trafficking. Also, there are at least four other narcotics transport routes outside the area of influence of Khun Sa. These are:

From Tongchi and Chiang Tung to Tha Khi Lek.

From Mandalay, Tongyu and Malamaeng and Rangoon into Thailand at Ranong.

From Doi Laem, Mong Tuan and Mong Hang past Ban Mae Kaen and into Thailand in the Chiang Dao area.

From Mong Pan across the Salaween River to Tham Ngop and into Thailand at Chiang Dao or at Mae Taeng or Mae Rim.

In addition to the suppression of narcotics, another benefit to the United States is that it has gained influence in Burma in order to reduce the influence of the Soviet Union in this region. At present, Burma's economic situation is such that it must wait for great economic help from abroad. The great powers are trying to gain the advantage by providing help with the hope that Burma will lean toward their side. One result of Thailand's suppression operation that cannot be denied is that the United States can apply great pressure and this has benefited Burma greatly. Thus, the fact that the United States has now gained influence in Burma is very cheering.

The Red Flag BCP (Soviet faction): This suppression operation against Khun Sa will certainly force Khun Sa to have to strengthen his ties with the Red Flag BCP, just as the 6 October 1976 event, in which there was heavy suppression, forced many Thai youths to flee into the jungle and join the Communist Party of Thailand (CPT).

The White Flag BCP (Chinese faction) and the CPT: Several minority groups that have in the past been enemies of or that have never had relations with the White Flag BCP will probably have to review their role. This is because, while they are fighting the Burmese government, Thailand may use its forces to suppress them just as it did in the case of Khun Sa and, therefore, being an enemy of the BCP may endanger their own existence. Thus, the present way in this situation is to find a way to compromise with the BCP as much as possible in order to prevent battle fronts from opening up on all sides. And for the same reasons, there may also be compromise between these minority groups and the CPT. "The situation in the rural areas of Burma is the same as that in Thailand. The suppression operations carried on by the officials are all violent. The villagers cannot bear this. They feel that they can live with anyone who is not a government soldier. Thus, when there are no longer any national liberation forces to protect them, they will either have to seek out another group to protect them or flee elsewhere," said Sathan Phairoh, a talented cameraman who has lived and worked in this forbidding area for more than 2 years.

The Effect On Thailand

In addition to the more than 10 tons of weapons and war materials seized by Thai officials, it looks as though [the operation] has benefited Thailand in many other ways too. For example, it is generally said that this will improve Thailand's image in the eyes of the world since in the past, Thailand's attitude toward the narcotics problems has constantly been questioned by the world community. Besides this, Thailand greatly hopes that this decisive operation will show the United States Thailand's sincerity and its readiness to serve the United States, with the goal being the aid money that it will receive from the United States.

In addition to the broad benefits that Thailand has gained, concerning Thai politics specifically, this [operation] has greatly benefited the government. This operation thus represents a major achievement by the government, an achievement such as has never before been scored by the Prem government. Furthermore, concerning the stability of the government, while the government was once constantly on the verge of collapse, it has now been strengthened to the point where it will be able to survive for a time. This is because this operation has led people to again ask why Khun Sa had such great influence in Thailand. And the person who is being pointed to as the person who was greatly involved with Khun Sa is General Kriangsak. Regardless of whether this is true or not, it will certainly be difficult for General Kriangsak to escape being damaged by such reports. This is because more and more people have turned their attention to General Kriangsak and his former ties with Khun Sa. "With this, I think General Prem killed several birds with one shot. Faced with this, General Kriangsak, who was toying with toppling the government, has had to shut up. This is called eliminating your political enemies," said one politician who wished to remain anonymous to PATINYA. And it seems that General Kriangsak is well aware of the possible harmful effect of this. He has told reporters harshly that "if anyone prints anything bad about me, I will sue them."

At the same time, there are other people who will profit greatly from the Ban Hin Taek operation. It is well known that this area is rich in profits to be made from collecting transit taxes from the caravans that transport opium, jade and various smuggled goods. Once rid of Khun Sa, the other groups that will replace him will be able to reap the profits, which is similar to what once happened in the Prachinburi border area. Besides this, viewed from another angle, the Ban Hin Taek operation is like a ladder that certain people can use to climb to a higher position, particularly high-level military positions, about which there is news that changes will be made this April.

As for the losses that Thailand will suffer as a result of this operation, besides the loss of lives, the thing that can be seen clearly is that, with respect to the minority groups, Thailand will be placed in the same position as Burma. And things will become even worse if these minority groups turn and establish ties with the CPT. The result would be violent clashes with no end in sight.

Summary

Concerning this action taken by the government, we certainly feel that the government had a right to take such action based on the fact that the nation's independence is more important than anything else. Also, this will [help] eliminate the narcotics problem that is affecting Thai society and societies throughout the world, which are all encountering troubles and facing the problem of crime. However, there are many other things that the government should be aware of and it should use these lessons to solve [problems] so that the same thing does not happen again. As for the first thing that is a source of problems, why were these minority groups able to develop and become so strong in Thailand and why did we have to solve the problem by using force and violence? Solving the problem this way should have been the method of last resort since this battle did not result in losses just to the two opposing forces. Many innocent people, including children and old people, were also punished. Also, this has forced people to rely on other forces such as the CPT and this will be very damaging to Thailand in the long term. Another thing that is important is that any action carried out by Thailand should be based on caution and be in accord with the situation. We should try not to let ourselves become the tool of any group or fall under the influence of another country. Because, the benefits gained will go to those in the background while the losses will fall to those who are serving as tools, which is what Thailand is experiencing at present.

11943

CSO: 5300/5647

THAILAND

IMPACT OF CROP SUBSTITUTION, OTHER PROGRAMS NOTED

Bangkok KHAO CHATURAT in Thai 15 Feb 82 pp 17-20

[Article: "Destroying the Opium, a Mountain Play"]

[Text] In January, "Chaturat" and a group of people travelled to a mountain area known as a "poppy free zone" in Chiang Mai Province.

The pictures on television of the hill tribesmen cutting down their own poppy plants made me think of many things and finally Chaturat had to go there -- an area that the Office of the Narcotics Control Board (ONCB) has announced as being a poppy free zone. This 3,200 rai zone is located at Doi Sam Mun, Mae Thai, Khunwang, Ban Phui, Mae Samai, Phanok Kok and Ban Bokchan in Chiang Mai Province. The reason for announcing this poppy free zone is that, at present, the hill tribesmen in these areas earn a sufficient income from the economic crops that they have cultivated in place of poppy. This announcement took effect during the last poppy cultivation season, that is, in October 1981.

Originally, this "poppy destruction" policy called for thousands of volunteers from Chiang Mai Province to come and be the ones to cut down the poppies. But because of the fear that this would affect [relations] between the lowlanders and the hill tribes, in the end what happened was that the hill tribes took their sickles and cut down the poppies that they had planted. A person who was there at the time told Chaturat that "it was like a movie that Ne Win made for the Americans. They looked happy but this was actually very painful."

The destruction of the poppies has resulted in an estrangement between the officials in the various development units that have been mobilized for work and the hill tribes. "If we are to carry out the development work, we have to associate with them. It took years to become friends with them. But by destroying the poppies just this 1 year, they have lost their trust in us," said one field official concerning this policy. Even Chaturat, who was once received cordially when travelling in these mountains, is now looked at in a hostile manner. Another development official stated that since the poppies were cut down in this area, there will not be any poppies in this area the next poppy season. But the matter goes deeper than this -- to a point where the government officials cannot go.

"The development policy was starting to produce results. Why did they have to get impatient and 'take the bulls by the horns,'" he said as if not able to understand.

An official who has been involved with this problem for a long time once told Chaturat that the people who are directly affected by the destruction of the poppies are the poor tribesmen who earn their income from opium. But the ones who have not been affected are the "Haw," the middlemen who come and purchase the opium from the tribesmen. In some areas, these "Haw" have staked out secure areas in the mountains by marrying hill tribe girls and used their greater cleverness to gain a monopoly of the opium trade.

As I travelled from one mountain to the next, I sensed the truth. That official pointed out the effects that this "poppy destruction" policy has had. The good results can be summarized as follows:

1. The amount of raw opium has been reduced.
2. The hill tribes have begun to understand the poppy cultivation intentions of the officials.
3. This shows the results of Thailand's effort to suppress opium.

As for the bad effects, you can decide for yourself how bad they are:

1. The hill tribes have begun to form a bad opinion of Thai government officials.
2. They feel that it is unjust that they are not allowed to grow poppy while others who live in distant villages can do so, villages that are too distant for Thai government officials to reach but that the opium merchants can reach.
3. The result of the second point is that the hill tribes are looking for new places to grow poppy that are farther away.
4. This is a matter that opium merchants and those with bad intentions toward the Thai government can use to attack [the government] and generate hatred.

"Concerning the claim that the cultivation of alternative crops has helped the hill tribe economy sufficiently, this is something that must be looked at carefully," stated the development official. Looking at the fields of the hill tribes, it can be seen that coffee is the main crop. Besides this, they plant cash crops of kidney beans and potatoes. As for the plums or strawberries that are grown each year on an area equal in size to the poppy area, they may bring a higher price than opium but few hill tribesmen grow them. Another thing is that this produce must be packaged and sold in the lowlands while, for opium, the merchants scramble up the mountains to purchase it.

"Thus, developing their minds so that they think of themselves as Thais is of greatest importance. When they feel that they too are Thais, the development of other things can be discussed easily, even asking them to abandon poppy cultivation." This is the way that one development official who has lived there for more than 5 years would solve the problem.

Irawat Chantharaprasoet, the Head of the Hill Tribe Development and Welfare Center and Director of the Highlands Economic and Social development Program

The hill tribesmen's ignorance is a great obstacle to development, It is as if there is a century's difference between their knowledge and understanding and ours. Thus, we must work hard and coordinate things with the various government sectors concerned, particularly the Ministry of Agriculture and the ONCB.

Another basic task of ours is to prepare house registration certificates and identification cards for the hill tribesmen. This must be done in order to get an exact population count and to prevent the hill tribes from crossing back and forth across the borders. However, even though we have worked on this several years, there are about 2,000 more hill tribe villages that we have not been to since they are located far away and we do not have sufficient manpower to establish units. We must try to get to these villages soon.

The problem now is that the United Nations will stop providing help in fiscal year 1982 and we will probably experience difficulties in taking over this program. And there is the matter of the officials. The thing that can be seen clearly is that the wages paid by foreigners are much higher than those earned by government officials. Where can we find knowledgeable people to hire? But if we cannot hire them, we cannot carry on the program. Each of our stations has only three people but the work requires more than 20 people. What can we do to solve this problem so that we do not have to stop the program? And if the government provides money to hire people, will these people be willing to work for the much lower wages offered by the state? These are the problems that the government must consider carefully.

Our budget for hill tribe development is presently 30-40 million baht. We also receive money from the World Bank, Unicef and the United Nations. Besides this, there are also units from private groups such as the various missionary groups. We manage these groups so that they do not get off target. As for us, we have our Thammacharik program [program in which monks accompany government officials to the hill tribes], which has achieved satisfactory results. Thousands of hill tribesmen have entered the monkhood. As for the income earned from the stores that sell hill tribe articles, in 1981 alone approximately 1 million baht was earned. We also export items to Europe and Japan. On the average, our monthly income is around 70,000 to 80,000 baht. Thus, we can create adequate work for the tribesmen outside farming.

As for what has been achieved in developing the minds of the hill tribesmen, at present this is difficult to estimate in any detail. We can only say that poppy cultivation is gradually being reduced and that approximately 30 percent of the tribesmen in 1,000 villages that are in the development

program have a feeling of being Thais just like we who are from the plains do.

Chawalit Yotmani, the Deputy Secretary-General of the Office of the Narcotics Control Board

Chaturat: Would you please describe in detail the present activities of the ONCB.

Chawalit: People still hve misconceptions about the ONCB. We are responsible for things but we do not carry out everything ourselves. We are only responsible for finding areas in which to work in order to speed up things. Take solving the drug addict problem in our country as an example. Narcotics are produced here; this has not always been admitted. If we do not face the facts, we will be deceiving ourselves.

Concerning solving the problem at its source, we cannot go and destroy the poppies without having anything to replace them with since those who grow poppies are not rich. They have only enough money to support themselves. The opium they produce is used like money to exchange for goods. In some places where they have received help and they have a good income, we have implemented measures to completely suppress [poppy cultivation]. Concerning this, we have asked for cooperation from the agricultural and public welfare units.

[Question] But after we destroy their poppies, won't they simply move and cultivate poppies in places inaccessible to us?

[Answer] At present, we are trying to control and register the hill tribes as quickly as possible. But these hill tribes have lived here 30-40 years; they do not have any intention of moving elsewhere. In such a case, we should establish places for them to make a living. In the forests, they have forest village projects. For example, the Department of Land Development has received funds from the World Bank for setting aside land for homes and making the best use possible of the land.

[Question] Concerning the areas where poppy is grown, there are areas where our officials have been and where they have not been, isn't that correct?

[Answer] In our country, the most poppy is grown in Chiang Mai and Chiang Rai followed by Mae Hong Son and Nan provinces. Little is grown in Lampang and there is almost none at all in Lamphun. Yearly [opium] yields range between 15 to 50 tons, but not over this. In some dry years, the yield may be only 11-15 tons. Last year, the weather was good and the yield was 30-50 tons. No one knows the exact quantity, or figure. We cannot say for sure how much narcotics was produced, just as no one knows how many addicts there are. We can only make estimates.

[Question] Has there been any reaction from the hill tribes since their poppies were destroyed?

[Answer] We first have to make them understand that growing poppies is illegal before we go in and destroy the poppies. We have to use gentle methods. For example, this year we let them cut down the poppies themselves. Next year we must provide other crops for the villages. As for a reaction, up to now there has not been any. All the villages that we carried this out in have been allotted rice. If they want cloth, we buy some for them. For example, the weaving and embroidery work of the Liso is very beautiful. We should promote this.

Concerning the cultivation of alternative crops, the aspect that we must work hardest at is marketing. We have to find out how to sell the greatest amount possible. The agricultural produce must be of good quality and must be ready during periods when prices are high. Quality is a very important matter. We must ship and pack the produce. I believe that growing "araphica" coffee will earn a greater income than growing poppy.

[Question] Besides the cultivation of alternative crops, what else are we doing to suppress narcotics?

[Answer] What we have talked about is only one aspect. In solving this problem within the country, we are working on five fronts. The first front has already been discussed. The second front is suppression. We must increase the number of officials. Narcotics suppression is work in which [people] must be followed and arrested and there must be cooperation with the police and customs departments. The ONCB seeks information and tries to follow the results of the cases. As for the third front, if we figure that there are 500,000 drug addicts, what quantity of drugs is needed every minute? When there are addicts, there is drug trading. At present, we have opened more than 60 drug rehabilitation centers throughout the country. Fifteen centers have been opened in Bangkok alone. People can go to these centers and get treatment immediately without the officials taking action against them. If we do this a lot, drug sales and drug addiction will decrease. The fourth aspect concerns control. We have people, drugs and an environment. If we protect people, we know that these people will be an important resource. They must be educated. When they have [proper] habits, we will not have to worry about them becoming addicted. Another thing is that we must help improve the environment. The mass media must help too. We must take action beginning when people are still young. Educating people correctly will give them protection. The fifth aspect concerns research. This plays an important role. It allows us to see the real situation, to see where the real problems lie and to determine what should be done to solve the problems.

[Question] Did the ONCB issue the warrant for the arrest of Khun Sa by itself? And what is used to determine for whom warrants should be issued? General Li, for example.

[Answer] As for the warrant for the arrest of Khun Sa, the ONCB issued this itself. As for whom warrants should be issued, this depends on which groups are heavily involved in narcotics trafficking and which have many refineries. But

large quantities of drugs flow into our country. Considering the terrain here, our country is a very convenient exit point. It is like a transit point.

Khun Sa's group has many refineries and they have violated our sovereignty. I agree with the prime minister when he said that they have violated our sovereignty. But this major suppression operation did not concern the drug problem alone. There were other problems involved too. As for carrying out things resolutely, this is not easy to do. I do not want to comment on this. I agree with the decision that was made and many countries have praised us.

[Question] I would like to ask, what are the chances that we will purchase the opium at a time when they are cultivating both poppies and alternative crops?

[Answer] We could purchase the opium if, for example, they produced 100 tons this year, 80 tons next year and finally none. But we cannot be sure that the 100 tons this year will not increase to 200 tons next year.

[Question] What do they do with the opium they produce?

[Answer] They exchange it for goods instead of using money. (Laughs)

11943

CSO: 5300/5647

VIETNAM

BRIEFS

DRUG ADDICT TREATMENT--In 1981 the Ho Chi Minh City Narcotics Center cured 1,585 men and women. At present about 5,000 individuals are being treated at this center. [Text] [Paris DOAN KET in Vietnamese 27 Feb 82 p 8]

CSO: 5300/5674

BAHAMAS

BRIEFS

SENTENCE IN MARIHUANA CASE--A 38-year-old Puerto Rican, who changed his plea to guilty, was fined \$40,000 or nine months in prison for intending to supply 5,000 lbs of marijuana. Moises Clero Otero, who had first pleaded not guilty, admitted yesterday afternoon that he had the marijuana when the DC 4 aircraft landed at Treasure Cay, Abaco, January 26. He told magistrate George van Ser-tima that he was the mechanic aboard the plane. Thomas M Townsend, 32, who was also charged with possession of the marijuana, was discharged after maintaining that he was not guilty. The men had earlier been released on a \$25,000 cash bond each. Prosecutor Conrad Sweeting told the magistrate that at 12:45 am, January 25, the Marsh Harbour police were patrolling the Treasure Cay airport area when they saw a plane parked on the western end of the runway. Two men, who were in the aircraft, were throwing bales out of the plane, while several men on the ground stacked them. The other men fled, leaving the two accused. When they were arrested two bales of marijuana remained in the aircraft, while 66 bales were stacked on the runway. The magistrate said that drug dealing was a deliberate act on the part of the person. He cautioned Otero on the first charge of possession, but fined him \$40,000 or nine months for intent to supply. [Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 6 Feb 82 p 1]

DRUG DETECTION EQUIPMENT--The Princess Margaret Hospital now has a drug detec-tion system that represents the very latest state of technological advancement in site drug analysis systems. The Syntex Pharmaceuticals International Lim-ited, Bahamas Chemical Division recently presented the Hospital with a new EMIT S T Drug Detection System, which will enable doctors there to provide rapid emergency drug abuse detection. The EMIT S T employs the same EMIT chemical methods successfully used by many medical and commercial laboratories around the world. Anyone can operate the EMIT S T with a minimum amount of training, and the results are ready in 90 seconds. [Excerpt] [Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 16 Feb 82 p 6]

CSO: 5300/7532

BARBADOS

DRUG OFFENSES INCREASE 20 PERCENT IN 1981 OVER 1980

Bridgetown SUNDAY SUN in English 21 Feb 82 p 3

[Text]

DRUG offences in Barbados increased by almost 20 percent last year over 1980.

Some 264 persons were charged in connection with drug, related crimes during 1981, compared with 226 the previous year.

According to official police statistics, of these 264 persons charged in connection with drug offences, some 136 were found guilty by the law courts, while a further eight were found not guilty.

To compound the figures, some 120 cases are still pending. Of the total number of cases brought, 244 involved possession of marijuana, eight for cultivation of the same drug. In addition, there was one case involving possession of cocaine, compared to no cases in 1980.

While the various drug cases for 1981 only included three persons under the age of 16 years, compared to four in the previous year, some 179 persons between the ages of 16 and 30 years were charged in connection with these drugs, compared to 1975 and 1980.

The most significant increase in the age-group statistics for drugs was in the over 30 section, where the increase was over 200 percent. Some 73 persons above the age of

30 years were charged with drug offences, compared to only 23 in 1980 and ten in 1979.

A senior police official told the SUNDAY SUN that the work of the customs department in recent times have proved to be very successful, causing would be drug traffickers to think twice.

The police official added that marijuana trafficking in Barbados was becoming more and more profitable every day, and what was even more disheartening about the whole affair was that persons at every scale of the ladder were involved in the trade, and whenever they wanted to clamp down on a particular "opening", there

was always some senior person in society there to cause problems.

The official also went on to point out some features at the points of entry, mainly the Grantley Adams International Airport, which, if they were charged by the authorities in accordance with recommendations made by the Police department, would make it even more difficult for persons to slip through undetected with the illegal drugs.

In addition to this, it was reported by sources that the police, in association with the Customs Department, were keeping close tabs on passengers brought into the island by two particular airlines, from Jamaica and the South American continent.

CFO: 5300/7533

BERMUDA

BRIEFS

COCAINE SMUGGLING--A 30-year-old Californian is now in jail awaiting trial for allegedly bringing \$140,000 worth of cocaine into Bermuda, Acting Commissioner Clive Donald said yesterday. Gregory Allan May of Hayward, California, was arrested at the Civil Air Terminal on January 14. May appeared in magistrate's court on January 15 charged with importation and possession of four ounces of cocaine with intent to supply. He will appear in court again for mention on January 29. He was remanded in custody. Also on the Police blotter was another arrest for alleged drug importation, this time a man arriving from Jamaica on a British Airways flight on January 18. Nine pounds of cannabis valued at \$22,500 was seized by Police. [Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 23 Jan 82 p 2]

CSO: 5300/7532

COLOMBIA

BRIEFS

U.S. DRUG TRAFFICKERS KILLED--Santa Marta--Two U.S. drug traffickers were killed today when their light aircraft carrying a cocaine shipment crashed in a mountainous region in Fundacion Municipality. According to the police reports, the plane had taken off from a clandestine runway near Cienaga. [PA152350 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 2330 GMT 5 Mar 82 PA]

COCAINE CONFISCATED IN BOGOTA--Bogota--The authorities confiscated tonight about 50-million-pesos worth of cocaine in a house in northern Bogota. They arrested (Alvaro Vargas), (Carlos Leal Pardo), (Fernando Iguera Santamaria), (Carlos Alsate Arcial) and (Alfonso Vargas). They also found a modern cocaine-processing laboratory. [PA152350 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 0000 GMT 13 Mar 82 PA]

MARIHUANA TO HAMBURG INTERCEPTED-- Santa Marta, 17 Feb 82-- Some 7,000 kilos of packed marihuana which was to be sent to Hamburg through this port aboard the ship "Atlantic Streran" was confiscated by the authorities. The marihuana was coming from Bogota and was being transported in a tractor-trailer driven by Felix Antonio Alarcon, who was arrested. [Text] [Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 18 Feb 82 p 3-A] 8414

CSO: 5300/2202

JAMAICA

BRIEFS

COCAINE POSSESSION FINE IMPOSED--A fine of \$40,000, with the alternative of three years imprisonment at hard labour, was imposed on Thursday by Mr Justice Alexander (acting) on Gail Griffiths, 25-year-old Englishwoman who pleaded guilty in the home circuit court to illegal possession of 3 lb 2 ozs of cocaine, valued at some U.S.\$3 million on the streets of America. The judge ordered that Griffiths be deported at the end of the sentence which she will serve if the fine is not paid. Griffiths was arrested on November 20 last year at the Norman Manley international airport after she arrived on a flight from Peru. [Excerpt] [FL051330 Kingston DAILY GLEANER in English 27 Feb 82 p 1]

CSO: 5300/2229

MEXICO

BRIEFS

MARIHUANA TRAFFICKERS SENTENCED--Seven years in prison and a fine of 10,000 pesos or, if in default thereof, 15 more days in jail, was the sentence handed down by the third district judge, Ricardo Rodriguez Villarreal, to two marihuana traffickers. Those sentenced are Cristobal Ortega, aged 24, and his common-law wife, Margarita Vazquez Andrade, who had been arrested by agents from the Federal Security Office [DFS] on 20 March 1980. The arrest of the two aforementioned persons took place following several investigations aimed at determining who was participating in the smuggling of weapons from the United States bound for Central and South American countries. When the DFS, responsible for these investigations, interrogated the two subjects under arrest, it was found that they had not taken part in the smuggling of high-powered weapons; however, at the same time it was disclosed that they were engaged in selling marihuana among addicts in the red-light district. In view of this situation, the evidence and those under arrest were turned over to the agency of the Federal Public Ministry, where Cristobal Ortega and Margarita Vazquez were interrogated. [Text] [Nuevo Laredo EL DIARIO DE NUEVO LAREDO in Spanish 12 Feb 82 Sec C p 3] 2909

FEDERAL PRISONERS' PRE-RELEASE IMMINENT--Six federal prisoners could be pre-released at any moment, according to an announcement made yesterday by the deputy warden, Roberto Ruiz Benavides, who serves simultaneously as state representative of the Social Crime Prevention Office of the Secretariat of Government. Yesterday, that official went to Mexico City to submit a report to his superiors regarding the current status of the jails in the various towns of Tamaulipas; and he will also continue the negotiations for the pre-release of six prisoners who have already completed two thirds of their sentence. The prisoners soon to be pre-released are Manuel Medrano Davila, Ricardo Serna Lopez, alias "La Guitarra", Jose Herrera Vazquez, Antonio Velazquez Mancillas, Jose Guadalupe Garza Rodriguez and Pedro Gonzalez Garcia. Roberto Ruiz Benavides reported that the pertinent documentation on these six prisoners has been in Mexico City for several months, and that their pre-release is being arranged. The aforementioned official noted that the status of these prisoners will be decided upon at any moment, adding that, as part of his functions, he would attempt to speed up these pre-releases. It was reported that all the prisoners whose pre-release is being negotiated have been arrested for federal crimes, primarily drug trafficking. [Text] [H. Matamoros EL BRAVO in Spanish 27 Jan 82 Sec A p 8] 2909

HASHISH SEIZURE REPORTED--The commander of the Federal Judicial Police, Mario Espinoza, succeeded in seizing hashish in the first case of this drug noted in Piedras Negras, as well as in arresting the distributor in Ciudad Acuna and the purchasers of the drug. The arrest took place in the dance establishment known as Disco Bocaccio, in the neighboring town of Acuna where, after intensive surveillance and investigation, Commander Espinoza himself made the arrest of the American David Burge, as well as of the gringo youths Thomas Earl Dawson and James Everett Bradley, the latter being residents of Del Rio, Texas, and one being the son of a leading official in that same town. It was said that David Burge went to Mississippi, where he purchased the hashish in order to sell it among the addicts in Del Rio, Texas; and that he also had the aforementioned Disco Bocaccio premises as a center of operations for the distribution of this drug as well as marihuana. He had been selling the marihuana for \$10.00 per container consisting of about 2 grams. It was explained that hashish is a drug derived from hemp which is used by drug addicts who burn it in small pipes for smoking. [Text] [Piedras Negras EL DIARIO DE PIEDRAS NEGRAS in Spanish 9 Feb 82 Sec D p 1] 2909

MARIHUANA SEIZED--Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua, 12 February (NOTIMEX)--Police officers from the United States Narcotics Department commanded by Officer David Regela arrested five Mexicans with a marihuana shipment valued at 50 million pesos on Thursday, at a small farm located in Chaparral, New Mexico (30 kilometers from here). The farm had been rented for a year by the Americans Paul Hipps and Pamela Mayer, who, according to the police, were unaware of the activities of the Mexican owner, Juan Gonzalez. Nevertheless, the unusual activity on the site aroused the suspicion of the narcotics agents and, yesterday, Thursday, they went to the site and seized 7,000 pounds of marihuana worth \$2 million. [Piedras Negras EL DIARIO DE PIEDRAS NEGRAS in Spanish 13 Feb 82 pp 1, 2] 2909

MARIHUANA INTERCEPTED AT SEA--A United States vessel, with a cargo of marihuana and proceeding from Colombia, was intercepted by the Mexican Navy 12 miles off Isla Mujeres. Its crew members, a Colombian and four United States citizens, were arrested. Eight tons of marihuana were found in the vessel. The marihuana is valued at more than 80 million pesos on the United States drug market. Those arrested are: the Colombian, Eleazar Echeverria Garcia; and the North Americans, Mark L. Lee, Richard Arish W., Wendel Dosee, and Andres Harnold Perez, who told the authorities that they loaded the marihuana on in Colombia and that its final destination was the United States. The vessel's name is "Tumble Weed II" and its registration, SSORT-MY-RESFLA. Both the vessel and the arrested persons were placed at the disposition of the judicial authorities for investigation. In another anti-drug trafficking action, the Federal Judicial Police seized 3 tons of marihuana at a farm located in the municipality of Ciudad del Carmen, Campeche, where drug trafficker Taloga Mario Castro was arrested. At the same place, the federal authorities discovered and seized almost half a ton of marihuana seeds which were to be sown near the property of Taloga Mario. The marihuana, said the PGR [Attorney General of the Republic] had already been packed and was apparently ready for shipment to the United States by ship. [Text by Rafael Medina C.] [Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 13 Feb 82 p 29-A] 8255

CSO: 5300/2207

PERU

BRIEFS

DRUG TRAFFICKERS ARRESTED--Tarapoto, 25 Jan--The Civil Guard captured three drug traffickers who manufactured cocaine base at kilometer 110 on the Tarapoto-Juanjui Road. They seized 600 kg of coca leaves in the process of maceration, 1/2 kg of cocaine base, two machineguns, one revolver and ammunition. [Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 26 Jan 82 p A] The Drug Traffic Control Department of the Peruvian Investigative Police has arrested Felipe Morante Moran for manufacturing cocaine base at his home. Also arrested was Rigoberto Gutierrez Rios, a Cuban refugee, on charges of being involved in distributing or packing the drug. [Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 27 Jan 82 p a 9] The Drug Traffic Control Department of the Peruvian Investigative Police [PIP] has captured several drug traffickers in Ayacucho, Lima and Piura. They are: brothers Baldomero, 47, Ruperto, 34, and Beer Flores Ruiz, 27, and Benito Atoche Zapato, Walter Castro Egoavil and Esteban Lujan Zamora. The PIP seized 11 kg of cocaine base and several million soles worth of inputs and cash. [Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 5 Feb 82 p B 6]

CSO: 5300/2216

ISRAEL

BRIEFS

HASHISH FOUND IN SEA--Yesterday afternoon hashish worth 2 million shekels was discovered by an amateur diver under the sea at a depth of 10 meters near Shave Ziyon. [Text] [TA050713 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 5 Mar 82 p 4]

CSO: 5300/4712

BOTSWANA

HEALTH MINISTER ON REGIONAL DRUG COMMITTEE

Gaborone DAILY NEWS in English 2 Mar 82 p 2

[Article by Larona Sedimo: "Committee on Drugs--'A New-born Baby'"]

[Text]

THE REGIONAL Advisory Committee on Drugs — the Committee of the Commonwealth Regional Health Secretariat for the East, Central and Southern Africa — has been described as "a new-born baby."

This description was from the Minister of Health, Mr Lemme Makgekgenene, when he was opening the Regional Advisory Committee on Drugs on Thursday.

The Minister however said that he believed that the baby was a strong one which would quickly grow to maturity and so be able to tackle vigorously the problems of drugs procurement and the quality control of the numerous agents which we use in modern medical practice, as well as tackling the increasing problem of misuse and abuse of drugs.

Mr Makgekgenene also said that it was encouraging to have representatives from countries of the region participating in the conference. "With many of these countries, we have economic ties" he pointed out.

The countries which are attending the conference are: Kenya, Malawi, Uganda, Mauritius, Seychelles, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Swaziland, Lesotho and Botswana. All these countries, the Minister said were members of the Commonwealth and that "virtually" all of them were members of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) and

that most of them belonged to the recently established Southern African Development Coordination Conference "commonly known as SADCC".

He said that all the groupings he had mentioned had one control objective which he said were cooperation in and coordination of "our socio-economic and political advancement."

He said the participants, in the duration of the conference would have much to talk about and may problems to discuss.

He pointed out that another problem affecting the regulation and control of the drugs was inadequate legislation which in itself was a reflection of the level of our development.

The Minister said however, that despite all the outlined problems, progress had always been made. "We have witnessed rapid growth of our respective countries," he disclosed. He said that was evidenced by the building of hospitals, health centres and clinics.

Some of these facilities, he added, were located in remote areas.

"With this growth of medical services and the general acceptance nowadays, of modern medical practice by the majority of our people, it is imperative that we work out the most efficient and economical ways of obtaining drugs of proved quality and purity," he said.

The Minister said that in the field of legislation, there is a

great deal needed to be done. Our laws and regulations, he said, should be revealed to our particular circumstances, to our particular institutions. "They must at the same time take cognizance of the international practice," he pointed out.

He added that the World Health Organisation (WHO), had a wealth of expertise and experience in the field of drugs, and that in the formulation of policies we should tap this expertise.

Drugs used in the countries attending the conference must fully match internationally accepted quality standards. He added that the maintenance of these quality called for standards for cooperation between the National Drug Committee, the Regional Advisory Drug Committee and WHO.

The Drug Committee of the respective countries in collaboration with the Regional Committee should initiate the National drug lists with the guidance of the existing WHO list of the essential drugs.

Minister Makgekgenene told the participants that in Botswana there was an active National Standard Committee on Drugs which has made a considerable progress in the dealing with matters of the drug policy and the regulations.

He expresses hope that with the arrival of pharmacists, recently from Norway, who have come to advise, train and organise the work of Botswana's Drug Committee we would prosper more and more. While we can not accept inferior quality, he added, we should not lose the fact that we work with the limited resources.

He further disclosed that in Botswana drugs account for about 12 per cent of the total health expenditure. He said it was important therefore, that a plan for the optimal use of these funds be devised. "Optimal use of these funds can only be on the basis of a clearly defined drug

policy," he added.

Mr Makgekgenene noted that since the represented countries to a large extent had similar problems, they must exchange information on all matters concerning drugs. He encouraged the participants to teach and learn from one another.

Cooperation should not be restricted to the exchange of ideas and information but at the same time cooperate in tackling the important question of personnel training.

He went on to say that in Botswana a few years ago, a three years training course for pharmacy technician was started. He said that he believed that the fuller details of the course would be discussed during the conference proceedings. "Once this course has had proven track record, and of course within the limits of our resources, we would be happy to make available to our sister countries, as indeed a number of these countries have offered and continue to offer facilities to Botswana Nationals," he stated.

Earlier when welcoming the Minister, the Acting Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Health, Mr Augustine Pontsho said he was particularly pleased because the meeting was a success, after failing to take place twice in the past which contributed to what he termed "poor management of the secretariat."

He however, said that since the appointment of the present secretariat, things have improved tremendously.

Mr Pontsho reminded the participants that the subjects they were going to discuss were very complex and important to all member states. He further expressed hope that the resolutions would be passed and the follow-up be made with the view to implement them.

"It would be useless for you to make resolutions here today which would never benefit this region in anyway. BOPA

CSO: 5300/5675

SOUTH AFRICA

'MAIL' LIFTS LID ON 'PINK DEATH' HORROR

Addicts Get Drug From Doctors

Johannesburg RAND DAILY MAIL in English 12 Feb 82 pp 1, 11

[Article by Chris Olckers]

[Text]

THE Rand Daily Mail this week penetrated the horror world of Wellconal drug addiction that has claimed at least 11 lives in the past year.

Among the startling facts uncovered were:

- Wellconal has become South Africa's most dangerous drug.
- Women addicts claim they sleep with doctors to get prescriptions for the drug.
- Many users have narrowly escaped death after taking overdoses.
- Abuse of the drug is increasing sharply all the time.

The Mail started its investigation after a known Wellconal addict, Mr Gerhard van den Berg, known as Goofy in drug circles, was thrown, dying and full of puncture marks, from a moving vehicle at the Johannesburg Hospital last week.

He was the third youth to die after an overdose of Wellconal in less than three weeks.

Drug experts and doctors have warned that more deaths could follow.

Wellconal, a morphine-based

drug developed to ease pain in cancer sufferers is known as "pinks" by addicts.

A top Johannesburg drug case lawyer, Mr Itzy Blumberg, confirmed that at least three of his clients had told them that they had obtained Wellconal by sleeping

with doctors.

He blamed South Africa's tough dagga laws for the increasing number of youngsters abusing tablets.

A top narcotic bureau policeman has also expressed concern at the frequent deaths and said police had a difficult time trying to stamp out drug abuse.

A Drug Abuse Council spokesman warned that Wellconal abuse was on the upswing.

"The recent deaths are but the tip of the ice-berg," the spokesman warned.

The three young men who died during the last month were all close friends and had on occasions met to get "spiked" — injecting themselves with a deadly mixture of water and Wellconal.

Major Martin van Rooyen, head of the Witwatersrand Narcotics Bureau said many young people

are popping tablets without realising that it could lead them to Wellconal and possible death.

The two other youths who died were:

- Mr Gert van der Schyff, 19, a national serviceman of Alberton.
- Mr Billy Lioudakis, 18, of Berea who was facing charges of house-breaking after he had broken into a chemist to obtain Wellconal.

Those who died earlier were:

- Mrs Victoria Kay, 24, of Hillbrow.
- Her husband, Ian, 26.
- Mr Anton Ferreira, 24, of Boksburg.
- Mrs Rose Calle, 22, also of Boksburg.
- Miss Lesley Roberts, 18, of Benoni.
- Mr Robert Budgen, 19 of Boksburg North.
- Miss Clair Johnstone, 19, of Hillbrow and
- Miss Lindsay Steel, 19, of Johannesburg Park.

Major van Rooyen said many "pink" addicts become so desperate for the drug that they would commit crimes such as breaking into chemists to obtain Wellconal.

The Pink Death

Drug users call it "pinks," but the path it takes them on is not so rosy-- just a vicious circle of highs and rushes in the world gone mad.

Until that last spike. The final rush, a slow floating feeling, then death.

That's Wellconal. A morphine derivative invented originally as a painkiller aimed specifically at cancer sufferers, the drug is being abused and -- instead of relieving severe pain for some -- it has brought death and destruction to many South Africans.

In the past year, its abuse claimed at least 11 lives.

"Pink" addicts crush the tablet into a diluted form and inject it directly into their veins.

Last week 25 year-old Gerard van den Berg, better known in drug circles as Goofy, had his last spike. Slumped and dying, he was thrown out of a moving vehicle outside the Johannesburg Hospital.

His death sparked a Rand Daily Mail investigation into the drug which police, doctors and lawyers have called the worst killer among drug addicts.

Goofy was only one of scores. He might have been covered in gaudy tattoos, but there was many an affluent Northern Suburbs "pink" user who knew him well.

At first they did not "spike" or inject drugs into their bodies.

They progressed from one tablet to the next tab, until they met the "ultimate" -- Wellconal.

As the head of the Narcotics Bureau in Johannesburg, Major Martin van Rooyen explains:

"They normally start off with Obex, a hunger suppressant which gives them a high

and keeps them awake. From there they have to progress to Vesparex, a sleeping tablet, to help them rest.

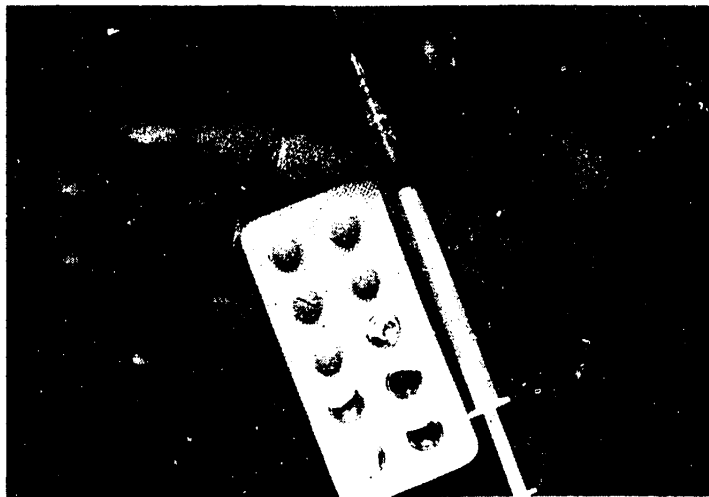
"When they wake up, they have to have Obex, because the Vesparex had made them groggy and fuzzy. It isn't long before they use Wellconal and that could easily lead to death.

"The craving for the 'pink rush' will force them to steal, cheat or even break into a chemist to get the drug."

This week self-confessed Wellconal addicts allowed me into their world and spoke of their craving for "pinks".

They find it almost impossible to describe the "high" they get from using "pinks".

They say that it is like floating on air. A feeling of release within the body and



TABLETS OF DEATH ... an addict, holds Wellconal pills.

mind. An increase in the heartbeat which at times forces them to lie down.

But although they know that it can kill they constantly refuse to believe that they might be next.

"Pink" addicts will always try to be together so that the one can look after the other. Many have had close shaves with death. Yet, they continue.

Many got hepatitis from using dirty syringes. Some have lost limbs after sores from dirty syringes turned gangrenous.

Chris is 27 and unmarried. He has been spiking himself regularly for the last seven years.

"Man I still don't know exactly how I started, but it happened. Three spikes and I was hooked. Sometimes I wish I could stop using the stuff, but other times I don't want to.

"If you gave me 30 pinks or a chance to seduce the most beautiful woman in the world, I'll take the tabs, man," he said.

His hands have swollen to double their normal size, he has needle marks all over his body where he has spiked himself. Between his fingers,

his feet, his arms.

He now injects himself in the neck by holding his breath until the veins show.

Then he plunges the needle in and starts a two-hour float.

He has built up a resistance to the drug. "New converts" only use two tablets. Chris uses five — and even six.

Peter is 24. He has a cosy flat in Sandton and holds down a regular job. He has now reached the stage where virtually every vein in his body has collapsed or been damaged so that he is unable to spike himself. He has been using the drug for several months.

Peter has become so desperate for the "rush" he gets from "pinks" that he injects himself in his penis as the veins in his groin have also been damaged.

It is desperately painful but he takes a "pink" orally so he won't feel the pain.

Some women users who have reached the same advanced stage of addiction inject themselves in their breasts.

Pat is an attractive 19-year-old who works as an escort or "anything loose" she can get her hands on.

"Yes I have slept with cer-

tain people to get the drug. Funny, it doesn't bother me, as long as I can get my supply," she said in her Hillbrow flat.

She admitted that she had gone to bed with doctors who had given her prescriptions for Wellconal and Vesparex.

She won't say who they are.

Sue, 19, has been in Johannesburg for two months, and she also had gone to doctors to get Wellconal.

"One tried to get me to have sex, but I did not budge. He eventually gave the prescription to me. But I am now trying to stop the spiking.

"Too many people have died. I've just got to stop," she said.

One of Johannesburg's top drug case lawyers, Mr Itzi Blumberg, said three of his woman clients had told him that they obtained their prescriptions by sleeping with doctors.

"And it wasn't just in Hillbrow, but in Pretoria, Sandton and the West Rand," he says.

"Two of them were Clair Johnstone and Lindsay Steel, both not even 20. They are now dead. Overdose on Wellconal. The third is still alive.

Detection

"These youngsters start on tablets because they are scared of the harsh dagga laws.

"It is much, much easier to pop a tab than to smoke dagga. Detection is much more difficult and they can actually do it openly.

"Then of course they progress onto Wellconal and end up with a criminal record when they break into chemists to satisfy their craving, or else dead on a mortuary slab."

In the last 18 months five of Mr Blumberg's clients have died as a result of Wellconal.

Two of them died in the last two weeks — Goofy and 18-year-old Billy Leodakis. Billy was due to stand trial for breaking into a chemist to get Wellconal.

Major Van Rooyen says that it is very difficult to stop the abuse of tablets which otherwise could be put to good use.

"It doesn't help to ban certain tablets. The addict will find a substitute. But the public and even the law machine must be educated to understand the dangers of the vicious circle of Wellconal," he says.

Help Sought

Johannesburg RAND DAILY MAIL in English 15 Feb 82 p 3

[Article by Chris Olckers]

[Text]

A MEMBER of Parliament has made an urgent plea to the authorities to treat "pink death" addicts as sick people and not criminals.

Mr Alf Widman, MP for Hillbrow and an expert in drug abuse, said yesterday he was distressed when he read that most of the victims of the morphine-based drug Wellconal were living in his constituency...

A Mail investigation last week revealed that the "pink death" menace was bigger than suspected before. In the past year at least 11 people died after injecting themselves with a mixture of water and Wellconal.

Doctors said at the weekend that at least 14% of all Wellconal users would die from an overdose.

The head of the Narcotics Bureau in Johannesburg, Major Martin van Rooyen, said many addicts not only stole prescriptions but also forged them.

"In some cases addicts study medical textbooks before going to see a doctor. There they will describe symptoms which necessitate the use of Wellconal as a painkiller. In other cases many addicts wear neck-braces claiming to have been involved in a car accident.

Pain

"They will then claim to be suffering from severe spinal pain and the best painkiller

available is Wellconal," he said.

The Department of Health and Welfare said in a statement yesterday that the International Commission on Narcotic Drugs had resolved to step up its campaign to counter drug abuse.

Grim

The statement said commissioners from about 30 countries attended this year's meeting and a "grim picture" of rising addiction, spreading drug abuse and booming narcotic sales was painted.

The commission urged the adoption of an international strategy and policy for drug control.

Particular concern was expressed at the increase in dagga abuse the statement said and added that

About 6 000 tons of dagga, more than 1 000 tons of dagga resin and more than a ton of liquid dagga is confiscated worldwide each year.

The commission was also alarmed at the increase in the use of cocaine.

CSO: 5300/5670

SOUTH AFRICA

BRIEFS

MASSIVE DAGGA HAUL IN NATAL--Police have destroyed dagga worth more than R300 000 in a massive raid in the Tugela Ferry and Jobskop areas in the Natal Midlands. The area was raided between February 11 and 26 by a team of 60 policemen headed by Colonel J Joubert of Pietermaritzburg. Police destroyed 225 tons of green dagga, 328 bags of dried dagga and 42 kg of dagga seed. More than 50 ha of green dagga plants were sprayed with poison from a helicopter. Police seized nine illegal firearms and 100 rounds of ammunition and arrested 82 people.--Sapa [Text] [Johannesburg THE CITIZEN in English 3 Mar 82 p 10]

FEWER DRUG REPORTS TO TED--Only 48 cases of drug abuse were referred to the Transvaal Education Department's psychological services last year compared to 92 in 1980 and 104 in 1979. This was revealed in the TED's response yesterday to an accusation in the Provincial Council last week that it was neglecting the problem. The Progressive Federal Party MPC for Hillbrow, Mr Simon Chilchik said the department seemed unaware that drug abuse in schools was rampant. He quoted a recent survey of three schools which claimed that up to 70 percent of Standard 7 pupils had tried drugs, that wome were already using "mainline" drugs and that children were eating dagga with their school lunch. The TED statement said its official policy on drug abuse--drawn up in 1972 and revised in 1978--was "that prevention is better than cure and that the best weapon against drug abuse is education both at home and at school." The TED said it had: Formed a standing committee to investigate the drug problem; launched a "thorough investigation" into the causes of drug abuse, the results of which were used in the teaching of youth preparedness; distributed brochures on drugs to teachers; cooperated with the Department of Social Welfare and the police. [Text] [Johannesburg RAND DAILY MAIL in English 24 Feb 82 p 2]

CAPE DRUG RACKET--Cape Town--Cape Town police have uncovered what they believe to be a drugs-for-sex racket and have appealed to parents to join them in the fight against drug abuse in the Peninsula. Brigadier Dries van den Heever, the city's CID chief, said yesterday there was evidence of an increased usage of schedule 7 drugs, particularly the dangerous Wellconal. Two doctors had been arrested in Cape Town and one, a 34-year-old Rondebosch man, was due to appear in court soon charged with the possession of more than 400 Wellconal tablets. The other doctor, aged 62, had been taken to Johannesburg in connection with an investigation there. Brig Van den Heever said the police would be happy to give lectures to any interested group on the dangers of drugs. "Also any drug addicts are urged to come forward. We are sympathetic to their problems and promise to handle them confidentially."--Sapa [Text] [Johannesburg THE CITIZEN in English 9 Mar 82 p 8]

COCAINE DEALER--A man was charged in the Kempton Park Magistrate's Court yesterday with dealing in 220g of cocaine--worth about R44 000--and 135 LSD tablets. Mr Bruce Ernest Berry, 26, of Magaliesberg Street, Van Riebeeck Park, Kempton Park, appeared before Mr J de Vries. He was charged with dealing in the drugs on January 12 this year or, alternatively, with possessing cocaine, LSD and dagga. The case was postponed until April 20. [Text] [Johannesburg RAND DAILY MAIL in English 3 Mar 82 p 5]

DAGGA HAUL DESTROYED--Police in the Natal midlands destroyed dagga worth more than R300 000 last month in a raid in the Tugela Ferry and Jobskop areas. A team of 60 policemen destroyed 225 tons of green dagga, 328 bags of dried dagga and 42kg of dagga seed, a spokesman said. A helicopter sprayed poison over more than 50 hectares of green dagga plants. Police also seized illegal arms and ammunition and arrested 82 people. [Text] [Johannesburg RAND DAILY MAIL in English 3 Mar 82 p 5]

CSO: 5300/5676

DENMARK/GREENLAND

NUMBER OF DRUGS VIOLATIONS ALMOST TRIPLES FROM 1980 TO 1981

Godthaab GRONLANDSPOSTEN in Danish 24 Feb 82 p 20

[Text] In 1981 there was a sharp rise in the number of narcotics crimes, according to the office of the police chief in Nuuk.

There were 166 violations of narcotics laws reported in Greenland compared to only 60 in 1980. In 1978 the figure was as low as 17.

"The cases mainly involved hashish," said acting Police Chief Hans Henrik Borg. "There are many indications that narcotics crimes are rising, even though many of the cases are offshoots of larger cases. We view the problem seriously, however, but we hope the extra funds Folketing has provided to combat narcotics violations in Denmark will also have a positive effect in Greenland."

Aasiaat has by far the most narcotics crimes, accounting for 91 of the 166 reported in all. In Nuuk, the country's biggest city, there were only 18.

Fraud and embezzlement was another crime area that rose explosively in 1981. There were 258 cases reported in this category compared to 146 the year before and only 95 in 1979. This means the figures almost tripled in 2 years.

Eleven Homicides

On the other hand, the number of homicides was close to the average in recent years, namely 11. Of these, seven were committed in Nuuk. The statistics from the police chief's office did not include the outlying districts of Thule and Illoqqortoormiut.

The number of attempted homicides rose a little from 22 to 26 and reports of assault rose from 358 to 405.

One of the bright points in the statistics was a slight decline in the number of burglaries from 1304 in 1980 to 1268 in 1981.

When it comes to total crimes committed, Nuuk is clearly in the lead with 1437 reported incidents. It is more noteworthy that Qaqortoq is in second

place with 468 and Paamiut is in third with 449, while the second largest city in the country, Sisimiut, is down in fourth place with 433.

In all, 5399 crimes were reported in 1981 compared to 4956 the year before. That is an increase of just under 9 percent. A good 56 percent of the cases were solved, exactly the same percentage that were solved in 1980.

6578

CS0: 5300/2213

DENMARK/GREENLAND

BRIEFS

HASHISH SMUGGLER'S SENTENCE INCREASED--The superior court in Nuuk increased the sentence of a 27-year-old man last week who had been found guilty in Sisimiut district court of importing and selling hashish. The first time around he was sentenced to a suspended prison sentence, 4000 kroner in fines and the confiscation of 44,000 kroner earned from the sale of hashish. The prosecuting authorities thought this was too light. Greenland's Superior Court agreed and increased the confiscated sum to 74,000 kroner and also sentenced the 27-year-old to serve 4 months in jail. [Text] [Godthaab GRONLANDSPOSTEN in Danish 24 Feb 82 p 20] 6578

TAXI DRIVER SOLD HASHISH--A taxi driver from Nuuk was sentenced last week to 6 months in jail by the district court in Nuuk. He was accused of dealing in marijuana and of importing 1 kg of the drug from Denmark. The prosecution had only asked for 4 months in jail. The taxi driver accepted the sentence. He was also found guilty of giving false information because he said in a foreclosure proceeding that he did not own anything. Actually he had a speed boat which disappeared under unclear circumstances. An insurance company paid him 85,000 kroner as a result. In an offshoot of the same case, a 32-year-old teacher was released last week because the investigation was completed. He is charged with dealing in hashish, alcohol, points and cigarettes. There are also charges of illicit contacts with female students. The final indictment is expected to be ready a month from now. [Text] [Godthaab GRONLANDSPOSTEN in Danish 24 Feb 82 p 20] 6578

CSO: 5300/2213

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FRANCE

FRENCH-THAI CONNECTION, ROUTES, METHODS EXAMINED

Paris PARIS MATCH in French 22 Jan 82 pp 5-11

[Article by Roger Holeindre: "Drugs, the Terrible Year of 1982"]

[Text] The poppy harvest has been plentiful in the Golden Triangle, which is the pivot point of the world's opium and heroin traffic. All police forces in charge of suppressing the traffic, the Thai police first of all, have been mobilized. How many pushers will they arrest? How many big wheels will be arrested, and how many of the increasingly tireless "ants," or street dealers, who are feeding a hectic market and its dizzying prices? The punishments also tend to be staggering: life in prison for less than 100 grams. For more than that, the death sentence is most common. Our special correspondent, Roger Holeindre, went to Bangkok and followed the drug network. He saw prison doors slam shut on young French people who had come there, often making a long journey, to seek an easy escape but not suspecting that they might not come back.

Real panic has overtaken the American Narcotics Bureau and European drug agencies. In 1982, more than 70 metric tons of pure heroin will flood the market from countries in the Golden Triangle: Burma, Thailand, and Laos; it is more than 10 times the amounts produced in previous years. The international network of drug dealers will pour it into America and Europe. The year 1982 will be that of the big shoot-up, with thousands of deaths by overdose.

It is an extraordinary disaster for the West. The truth is that overproduction does not exist for the drug market, and the police cannot do much against the traffickers. They will have to go to the source. What is a catastrophe for us is a blessing for the mountain people of the Golden Triangle, who live solely by growing poppies. Opium production in the Golden Triangle has risen from 200 to 700 metric tons in one year because of unusual weather conditions. The mountaineers do not realize that their harvest will spread death on the other side of the world. They are farmers, and they have just happened to have a good year. But their deadly harvest is already headed for Bangkok.

Battle has been joined on all fronts with men doing their duty as policemen on one side and men on the other side making millions of dollars, men who know all the deals, all the tricks, and who have accomplices they can pay off handsomely.

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SECRET

At present, U.S. agents are the most numerous in Thailand. With their Thai and other foreign colleagues they are applying methods developed when they worked with French agents in Marseilles or Paris in the struggle against the French connection. Their chief is the Regional Director, U.S. Department of Justice Drug Enforcement Administration, Robert J. de Fauw, who worked on the Marseilles case from 1965 to 1969 and in Paris from 1969 to 1970 in collaboration with Commissioner Le Moel, of the Central Narcotics Bureau.

Their biggest case was the discovery of 150 kg of heroin, which was seized on 20 March 1969 in a villa at 22 Chemin de Morgion, Marseilles. Three men were arrested: Georges Clamet, Giuseppe Laudonio, and the group's "chemist," Albert Veran. After 6 years in jail at Baumettes, the three men were released and caught again 2 months later in an identical situation. Robert J. de Fauw's sector of operations is quite vast; it extends as far as Australia.

The international collaboration of narcotics services sometimes yields spectacular results.

After 4 long years of investigation, the agents succeeded in following up all the trails of the largest drug ring there ever was, called "Ah Kong" or the "Singapore Chinese Triad."

Its chief was a Chinese by the name of Njo, who was arrested in Bangkok in 1979, and a Pak Yo Lan. The organization's leaders were also apprehended simultaneously in Europe. It was a remarkable haul. But other traffickers immediately took their place.

Commissioner Le Moel's service led the operation for France. The organization's funds were reckoned at \$1 million annually and the traffic at a metric ton of pure heroin a year, which makes the profits hard to calculate.

The case received a lot of publicity, and the heroin traffic from Asia stopped while the dealers got reorganized. Meanwhile, they reestablished the Turkish circuit.

Thailand's geographical location gives it a role that many Thai do not appreciate, that of the drug clearing house of Asia.

The two main opium-producing Burmese provinces are located on its borders: the Shan and Kachin states. These two states alone, which are in open rebellion against the Rangoon government, produce 450-500 metric tons of opium a year, which yields 45-50 metric tons of 98 percent pure, injectable heroin, called Number 4. There is also smoking heroin, called Number 3. Thanks to the courage of agents who succeeded in getting into Burma and scouting the entire Golden Triangle, the drug route is now known. Caravans go through Mong-Hsu and Keng-Tung, in Burma, and arrive at Tachilek, on the Thai border.

Most of the frontier in this area is under the control of the Shan rebel army, called the "Shan United Army," which has its headquarters in Ban Hin Paek, less than a kilometer inside Thailand. The S.U.A. [Shan United Army] warlords control a dozen laboratories called "Chinese labs," because the chemists often come from Hong Kong and they need only simple equipment to operate once they have the chemical formula. The laboratories are always located astride the border so they can disappear on the Burmese side when Thai troops come or towards Thailand when Burmese troops appear.

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Other rebel groups are also rife: the CURA, or Shan United Revolutionary Army; the KIA, or Kachin Independent Army; and the CIF, or Chinese Irregular Force, made up of survivors from a Chiang Kai-Shek division that held the region after Mao's troops conquered China in 1949. This latter group was recently farther inside Burma. And finally there is the SSRA, or Shan State Revolutionary Army. It is 3-4,000 men strong and is trained and equipped with modern weapons. It has gained supremacy over the other groups, collects taxes from them, and sells their opium harvests, which come to 50-60 metric tons a year.

With Laos occupied by communists and rebellions taking place on all the Burmese borders, the drug empire also tends to seize rice crops in the delta regions when the poppies are being harvested. The rice goes to feed combat troops, the opium to profits, the buying price to the tribes, and the selling price to the international traffickers.

For those who take part in the drug traffic, there is no ideology. The Laotian communists sell to whoever pays the best price. They know the result will be the same anyway: the corruption of the Western world at its most vulnerable point--its youth. As repression gains, the dealers do not sit still. They threaten the mountain people or tell them it is in their best interest to move the poppy plantations in order to escape detection by Thai military patrols.

Some plantations have moved from the Thai-Burmese border to the Thai-Malaysian border in the far south. This zone is under the very strong influence of the Malaysian Communist Party.

A modern processing factory was recently discovered near Songkhula by agents who had infiltrated a network of dealers at the risk of their lives.

The narcotics services think that some desert islands in the Gulf of Siam off the coast of Satul province now shelter processing laboratories displaced as a result of police actions, whereas these islands used to serve as relay stations and depots for heroin No 4 intended for Amsterdam, the United States, Australia or Hong Kong.

Drug shipments are also made by sea. The hard part for Thai or European agents is finding traffickers among the fishermen in their hundreds of junks on the Gulf of Siam.

As soon as a man of the network is arrested, a member of his family immediately steps into his place according to the law of the underworld, the strict law of silence that the hoodlums, criminals and drug dealers of Asia do not trifle with.

The gangster chiefs, the ones who deal with the big wheels throughout the world, use import-export companies, hotels, jewelry stores, etc. as a cover.

The "14 K Group" organization has been pretty much dismantled in Singapore and Malaysia, but it is now in the process of being reconstituted, and its new bases have not been located. This organization had succeeded in shipping abroad as many drugs as have been seized in Thailand in the last 7 years, all because the group made its own deliveries. The amounts were 400 kg of No 4 yearly from 1976 to 1979.

The narcotics agencies possess only one effective weapon against the "white tide" that the 1981 miracle harvest will soon unleash upon the world and against the distributing networks that spring up again as soon as they are destroyed: that weapon is

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to infiltrate courageous Asian agents into the gangs controlling the traffic. They can thus detect the movements of caravans transporting opium across mountains and jungles and destroy them with military action before they get to the underground laboratories.

The master plan now being financed by the American government and supervised closely by Senator Lester Wolff, who is a dogged enemy of the drug trade and who often visits the area, is as follows:

- (1) Stop the influx of opium from the North by any means.
- (2) Destroy the leadership of the gangs in Burma, even if it takes a war.
- (3) Destroy all clandestine laboratories.

But the only easy access to the Golden Triangle are roads through Thailand, built by the Americans during the Vietnam war. On the Burmese side, the jungle is laced with mule trails undetectable from the air. In Laos, the dealers do not hesitate to transport opium in 200-liter barrels on trucks.

The point now under closest surveillance in Thailand is Chiang Mai, which lies at the end of all the drug routes. The town is bursting with agents, and it is the place where almost all the arrests have been made of Frenchmen now languishing in Thai prisons.

The United Nations is aware of the danger and has allotted \$5 million, which has been distributed to about 30 mountain villages to encourage the inhabitants to grow coffee, tobacco and beans instead of poppies.

Since the beginning of 1980, \$1 million a year has been put into this project that few serious people believe in. The United States has been giving Thailand considerable military aid--especially helicopters--and has been training Thai army and police cadres in the United States.

The only reasonable solution is to relieve the mountain tribes of pressures from the private armies occupying their region and also--but that is another story--from the influence of the communist regimes that have come to power in recent years.

Meanwhile, in Bangkok, drugs are openly sold on the street: street 22, the pushers are there. In the shantytown of Pratuman, near the port, hoodlums are also well known dealers. "Soi 2," taxi drivers furtively sell heroin and marihuana on the sly near the hotel Atlanta. "Soi 3," right at the end of the street and over a little bridge, is a shantytown. There, all whites who look a bit like "hippies" are accosted by pushers offering all sorts of drugs. In all these places are sold plastic capsules, sometimes with a green stopper, varying from 1 to 3 cm in size, and containing 1-4 grams of drug. For the smallest doses, plastic bar straws are often used; they are cut and sealed by heat from a match or lighter.

The heroin sold in this manner is completely pure, and initiates say it is the best in the world because it assays at 95 percent pure. Generally, its price is stable at between 600 and 1,000 bats a dose, or Fr 130-220. It can be used either by injection after mixing with distilled water or by sprinkling the heroin on cigarette tobacco, or, as in most low-class hotels, by smoking the heroin in large bamboo pipes after mixing it with marihuana.

Thailand has forbidden smoking dens anywhere in the country for the last 23 years, but it is no longer only the supplier of the West. Two percent of its population of 48 million people, 5 million of whom live in Bangkok, are addicted to drugs, and the agencies estimate the domestic consumption of heroin at 25 kg.

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A 5-point program has been decided upon to try to keep Thais from taking drugs:
 (1) Attempts are being made to induce the mountain people to diversify their crops and abandon poppies. (2) An anti-drug education program is being introduced into the schools. (3) The police forces have been beefed up. (4) A more effective blockade is being instituted along the borders to seize the drugs at their source. (5) A serious struggle is being carried on with the support of foreign agents to keep drugs from leaving the country.

But the drug traffic has an international scope. The enormous problems of Southeast Asia also exist in Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Turkey. Everywhere there are specialized teams resuming the networks that were dismantled years ago, now that "old timers" from the days of the French Connection are returning after being freed from prison.

The absence of these "old timers" enabled the Chinese to take over part of the French Connection monopoly, because the French underworld used to be the only supplier of 95-98 percent pure heroin, known on the market as "Marseilles [line of text missing]." Bangkok is obviously the meeting place of people transporting drugs to France. As long as the Western countries have not succeeded in stopping all opium harvests before they reach the laboratories, the youth of Europe and America will be in danger. In 1976, U.S. addicts used more than 4 metric tons of pure heroin. A kilogram was worth \$85,000 in New York. Thanks to the narcotics agencies, consumption dropped a metric ton in 1980, but the market had grown so much that the drug was cut to only 2.2 percent and was worth \$200,000 a kilogram.

In France, the coming years threaten to be tragic. The number of addicts keeps increasing, and narcotics agency officials are all aware of what is coming.

The recent arrest of an important pusher responsible for bringing several kilograms of pure heroin into France proves that the network leading to France has many avenues and that big cargoes alternate with small shipments and the movement of "ants." Marc Counil, age 44, an officer of the Legion of Honor, former member of the Resistance, a person with an honorable reputation, and the proprietor of several night clubs, did not hesitate to jump into the drug traffic for the money.

At the National Headquarters for Customs Inspections (DNED), agents are constantly on the alert. Two special teams of 5 men each work only on narcotics cases. Their main work is to seek out information to dismantle the networks. Their workplaces are mostly airports and transport stations. They collaborate with the customs teams already on the spot, which account for a permanent staff of 20,000 customs inspectors. The results achieved in recent years have taught the customs men to distinguish between the ringleaders and the "pigeons," although it is not always easy to tell them apart.

Some transporters are "pigeons" who often carry a suitcase loaded with drugs just for the price of their ticket and a passport that is always false. At the airport, the transporter carrying the suitcase, and he is often a refugee from a politically totalitarian regime, meets an "accomplice" whom he has never seen and will never see again. But the man who collects the suitcase at Roissy is very often a pigeon too, and it unfortunately serves no purpose to catch him.

The main job of the DNED in close cooperation with the Narcotics and Drug Addiction Brigade is to trace the network back as far as possible. It now seems that French justice no longer hesitates to crack down hard and almost always distinguishes between the real traffickers and the minor accomplices.

Seizures made by customs officials are becoming increasingly numerous, but it appears that the time of massize shipments is over: while they may make a fortune if they succeed, they are also likely to create a colossal financial loss if they fail.

Customs officers think it is necessary to act quickly to dismantle all the "ant" trails. But the traffickers easily find new candidates. A kilogram of 95-percent pure heroin, comparable to the best made in France at Marseilles, is worth about \$20,000 in Chiang Mai or Bangkok. By diluting the "raw product" 10 times with lactose and selling it in France at Fr 800 a gram, the pusher can do Fr 8 million worth of business.

Retailers who dilute the heroin a little more, and they do this often, also make fortunes without taking the risk of traveling.

Such large profits attract a lot of amateurs. Since the beginning of 1980, many French people have fallen into the net set for them by the narcotics brigades.

On 15 January, Mr Le Bozec was arrested as he was leaving for France with 1,650 kg of pure heroin No 4 cached in hairspray bombs.

A young French girl who had been trafficking regularly for 6 months was arrested with only 20 grams on her, though she had normally carried 100 grams on each trip; she had bought a house in Normandy and a fashion shop in Paris with her profits.

She was put in jail but released on \$40,000 bond. As soon as she was out and back at her residence in Bangkok, she fled with a false passport.

On 4 June 1980, Jean-Marc G. and Sylvie C. were arrested at the Bangkok airport, most likely as the result of a tip-off. He was carrying 200 grams in his double-soled shoes. He had obtained 500 grams of 95-percent pure, No 4 heroin in Chiang Mai for \$7,500, or a lower price than normal. His seller must have been counting on the bonus he would get for turning him in, and thus made a profit both ways.

However, the French do not have the reputation of being "big pushers." This is a rather relative estimation when one considers the quantities in transit through Thailand. Among them, a large number of addicts make the trip in order to make a little easy money and keep part of the drugs for themselves.

All means are being used to bring heroin into France. A postal connection was recently discovered. It had grown to incredible size. Some "pushers" were sending 10-20 envelopes with 2-3 grams of pure heroin each from various post offices in Thailand. They were sending the letters to themselves, to post office boxes, or to "grandmothers." Some were even sending as much as 30 grams in a single envelope.

Ten or 20 envelopes with 2-3 grams each makes 40-60 grams after 10 mailings, which yields 400-600 grams when cut with lactose; at Fr 800 a gram in Paris, that comes to a staggering amount of money.

From all over the world, people of all races and nationalities hurry to Bangkok as others, for different reasons, go to Mecca or some other holy place.

They know all the ins and outs, the way to go all over the world. They follow each other and meet, leaving secret messages in all languages in all the "required" passageways to pass on the latest news and timely tips.

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At Bangkok, every hotel they stay at has a bulletin board. That alone would supply enough material for a novel. Every pusher can find lodgings or help.

Before landing in Thailand, thousands of them have made the grand tour, what they call the "Pot Trail" among themselves. Generally, their jobs or dealings make it possible for them to leave Europe with \$10,000 in their pockets for a trip of 2 years or more. As for the pilgrims of yore, the route is almost always the same: Morocco, Lebanon, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Nepal, Malaysia, Indonesia and, their final goal is always the same, Thailand. Formerly, it might also have been Laos or Cambodia.

They all know that after Nepal they can get to Bangkok for a modestly priced ticket. From Malaysia, they can take the train; from Indonesia, the boat. Those who are not able to leave the "civilized" countries with enough money work on the road, where they can but always in "combines" outside of the labor market, because it is hard for a white person to find an odd job in overpopulated countries with chronic unemployment. The most sought-after jobs, which only Europeans can hold, are spare deck-hand aboard a boat or cook or dishwasher aboard a large sailing vessel. For this kind of job, Hong Kong seems to be the prime place for "maritime hiring." Waiting for a boat is made easier by the possibility of finding heroin on the spot.

But the Pot Trail is also the route of counterfeit money printed in Europe and a big traffic in travelers checks. This traffic is expertly organized and requires the possession of two passports, which make it possible to buy travellers checks under a false name from private check cashing agencies (outside of banks). The present price of a passport in Bangkok is \$2,000. Some 15 percent of French youth who declare the loss or theft of their passports to the French embassy in Bangkok have actually sold them. There is also the possibility of buying travelers checks at a very low rate from "indelicate" people who declare them lost or stolen and who often have them refunded. Sometimes they are just travelers checks stolen by organized gangs that resell them at a low price. Throughout all of Asia on the tourist trail there is a flourishing traffic in counterfeit \$20 bills that the "pilgrims" buy for \$5 from shops known only to them.

For all Thai, civilians or military, foreigners are called "farang," a word derived from "farangset," from "français," 'French,' since for a very long time most of the white people seen in the kingdom of Siam came from French Indochina, next door. Not all the "farangs" in Thailand arrive via the Pot Trail, of course; crowded charter vessels from the four corners of the world unload authentic tourists, many of whom are men attracted by the loud publicity for the famous masseuses of Bangkok.

Unfortunately, among these real tourists are young Europeans, and among them are an increasing number of young French people of both sexes who are more in a hurry than their fellows and come to get drugs for themselves by the most direct route.

As they trip lightfootedly ashore, the dreamers think they have arrived in a drug paradise where everything goes and they can "shoot up" in complete freedom for the price of a few francs or dollars. The Vietnam war is what made Bangkok the drug clearinghouse of Asia and the required city of passage for all distribution networks. As a rear base of the American army in Indochina, Thailand had on its soil for years the greatest concentration of potential heroin users in the world. The new Thai law of 22 April 1979, called "Narcotics Act 2522" says very clearly, "Any person arrested

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with heroin in his possession--100 grams or less--shall be imprisoned for life. With more than 100 grams, the sentence shall be prison for life or death. With less than 20 grams, the sentence shall be from one to ten years in prison". These penalties should be made known in Europe and in France, and posted in travel agencies offering young people "pleasure trips" to Thailand. In Chiang Mai, there are 24 Europeans in prison: 4 Spaniards, including one woman, 2 Canadians, 7 Italians, 3 Americans, including one woman, and 6 French.

Yves, age 23, from Paris, came to Thailand because drugs are cheap there. In Paris he was a courier for various agencies. He has been in prison for 11 months awaiting trial. He was arrested in his hotel room with 200 grams of heroin that he had bought for his own use.

He had already come to Thailand several times to "use" drugs on the spot. He was denounced by his landlady and was arrested as he was coming back from town with another Frenchman he had met by chance. The one he had met was not an addict but a brilliant engineering student; he is still in prison, and his mother has already made several trips from Paris to Bangkok to Chiang Mai and back to try to get him out.

Yves claims he knew nothing about the severity of the Thai law. Now he risks life imprisonment because he is a foreigner. But the real penalty is death, and from 1978 to 1979, a dozen Thai traffickers have been shot.

His Thai lawyer does not speak French, and he does not speak English. That doesn't help. He refuses to notify his elderly parents and is all alone.

"As for all European addicts in prison, the first months were awful, especially the first 6 months," he told me. He managed to get 2 1/2 months in solitary confinement with his feet in chains for insubordination.

"That made me think things over. I think I've adjusted. I'm through with drugs. If I have the chance to get out some day, I'll never touch them again."

Christian is from Cannes, where he worked as an interior decorator. I find it hard to believe he is 24, he is so young and athletic. He was arrested with only 7 grams, turned in by the taxi driver who had sold it to him. He is another one who will never be caught with it again--so he tells me, at least.

Francois is from Lyons. He does not look 30 years old. He is a former sailing instructor and an addict for the last 10 years. It was the time when drugs were not expensive in Marseilles, before the French Connection was broken up.

He has been in his cell for 2 months, his legs in chains, after his arrest with 10 grams of heroin. As with Christian, his dealer turned him in to collect the bounty. "There are those who come to shoot up and those who come to do business. But the addicts always have more trouble getting out of trouble than the big shots." Just mess up once and you're in solitary with 17-kg chains on your feet day and night! In France, I was arrested 5 times for using drugs and every time I got a suspended sentence. Here I'm arrested once and I get the maximum. Ten years, 20 years, it's too damn dumb to waste your life like that."

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When I left Chiang Mai prison, I couldn't help turning and looking at the high walls and thinking of all the young fellows locked up inside thousands of kilometers from home and sure to spend half their lives there. They had often come without knowing what a chance they were taking, that in that part of the world governments react strongly. In Malaysia, heroin possession is punished by death if the amounts are large. In Singapore, you risk your neck for 10 grams. In Taiwan, it's prison for life, and in South Korea, the insane asylum.

Be they traffickers or street dealers, pushers or users, this inextricable network of cynicism, naivete and slavery must be fought at all levels, for it is exporting this poison that nature has created this year in an abundance never before attained.

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GREECE

LEBANESE DRUG TRAFFICKERS ARRESTED IN PIRAEUS

Athens ELEVTHEROTYPIA in Greek 23 Feb 82 p 2

[Text] Five Lebanese smugglers were arrested by the Piraeus police. They were bringing hashish into the country hidden in boxes of baklava sweets, which they smuggled to various European capitals. Four kilos of hashish and 82 Seiko watches were seized.

The five Lebanese are: Al-Nimr Tariq, 30, Abd-al-Kasbur [phonetic spelling], 40, Hilal Qassab, 18, Arshak Tsumian, 24, and Aghazarian Sarkis, 31.

The seized hashish was processed into 18 tablets. Tariq and Kasbur were first noticed by police when they came to Troumba [Piraeus district] and attempted to sell the hashish to various underworld figures. However, among the "prospective customers" was policeman Dim. Vasileiou, who was ordered by security director Man. Bosinakis to purchase the hashish.

The two smugglers were then followed to the luxury hotel on Syngrou Avenue where they were staying. Vasileiou accosted the two Lebanese and offered them \$20,000 for the 4 kilos of hashish. An appointment was made, but only Kasbur appeared, while Tariq kept at a distance with the drugs. At the appropriate time the policemen came out of hiding and arrested Kasbur. Tariq ran to a rented car and attempted to escape, but was blocked by police patrol cars. He abandoned the vehicle and started running, but was finally caught in an abandoned building. He had gotten rid of the hashish, but was unable to destroy it since it was in the form of tablets.

The other members of the gang were then arrested. They had brought into Greece large quantities of hashish in the past and had smuggled it to Europe.

As a rule, they used to bring the drugs from Lebanon to Volos hidden under innocent-looking baklava sweets which did not awaken the suspicion of customs officials.

The head of the gang is Tariq, who used to pose as a sea captain and had resided in Greece for some time.



Key:

1. Al-Nimr Tariq
2. Abd-al-Kasbur
3. Hilal Qassab

4. Arshak Tusumian
5. Aghazarian Sarkis

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NORWAY

AUDITORS FIND DRUGS ENFORCEMENT AGENCY FUNDS UNSPENT

Oslo AFTENPOSTEN in Norwegian 22 Feb 82 p 12

[Article by Ingrid Hagen]

[Text] Just under 24 million kroner for combatting narcotics has not been used, according to document 1 of the National Auditing Office which, among other things, shows how the various ministries have used funds appropriated to them. Parliament's supervisory committee, established in 1981, is examining reports from the National Auditing Office. Member of parliament Anne-Lise Bakken stated that this sum demonstrated a clear lack of initiative and imagination in the battle against narcotics. Health director Mork said this must be due to a misunderstanding of the budget.

"Millions of kroner have not been spent as planned," said member of parliament Anne-Lise Bakken (Labor Party), chairman of the Crime Prevention Council. "According to document 1 about 24 million kroner is available for combatting narcotics during the present fiscal year. How much of this was used in 1981 is unknown, but the money has accumulated from year to year since 1979. In 1980 only half of a 14 million kroner appropriation was used as planned."

That the funds are not used as appropriated indicates a clear lack of initiative and imagination in the struggle against narcotics, according to Bakken. "There are new programs that need money. Unorthodox approaches such as the Hestoy boat project were denied funding at first. This project offers work and rehabilitation for hard-core drug abusers. So far the Tyrili treatment collective in Mesnalia has been denied funding for social training. The Labor and Municipal Affairs Ministry pointed out that the program did not satisfy existing provisions, although funds have been appropriated and never spent."

"If we do not have the proper provisions, we must make them, so that unorthodox programs may be tested. We must dare to try them. If the Labor and Municipal Affairs Ministry has no money in its budget, it should point out that the Social Affairs Ministry has money for this purpose," Anne-Lise Bakken stated.

Health director Torbjorn Mork said that Anne-Lise Bakken's statements were incorrect and a misunderstanding of the budget. Last fall parliament appropriated a total of 20 to 25 million kroner. Many programs are being planned

at present, programs that take time, but will begin during 1982. Only 6 million kroner has not been earmarked for particular programs by parliament. This 6 million will be "insurance" to meet new situations that may arise in 1982, to initiate new programs in the battle against narcotics. Both customs officials and police may need extra funds, including the foreign sections. Some money will go to information work among youth and recreation clubs, according to health director Mork.

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SWEDEN

NORDIC MINISTERS PROPOSE TO SEND NARCOTICS POLICE OVERSEAS

Oslo AFTENPOSTEN in Norwegian 22 Feb 82 p 5

[Article by Thorleif Andreassen]

[Text] Stockholm, 21 Feb--The joint Nordic battle against narcotics will be waged outside the Nordic countries. Sweden will station police officers in Turkey and Greece, the Danes will have policemen in Germany and South America, and Norwegian narcotics investigators will spend the summer in Turkey and England. By placing police officers abroad, the Nordic countries will coordinate their efforts against drug crimes.

At the Nordic Council of Ministers meeting on narcotics which ended in Stockholm yesterday, Justice and Police Minister Mona Rokke advocated closer cooperation between narcotics police and alien authorities. She believes this is a prerequisite for combatting drug abuse. "Our ability to conduct so-called internal supervision of aliens must be improved. I would like to see more intense observation, surveillance, and investigation at places where many foreigners hang out. More customs personnel would make it possible to spend more time checking individual travellers entering the country and she pointed out that increased personnel would mean more frequent spot checks at border crossings between Nordic countries. This is necessary, according to Justice and Police Minister Rokke.

The Nordic governments agree that persons committing lesser narcotics crimes in other Nordic countries should be returned to their homeland and punished there. It was pointed out that there are a number of unfortunate aspects of having different punishments for the same crime in the Nordic countries. Norwegians or foreign citizens intending to smuggle narcotics into Norway risk milder punishment if they operate from Denmark than if they operate in Norway. The Norwegian representatives pointed out that Norwegian drug users choose to live in Copenhagen because the risk of punishment there is lower.

It was determined at the Stockholm meeting that cannabis use in the Nordic countries is increasing. The Nordic ministers stressed that false claims that cannabis use is safe must be countered. For this reason, the ministers agreed that all efforts to legalize the use and sale of cannabis must be opposed.

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